ASPEN
VOL. 3
#0
COVER A
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
FABOK
2010

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#0
COVER B
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
FABOK
2010

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#0
COVER C
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
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2010

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

VOLUME THREE
ISSUE ZERO

Story: J.T. Krul

Pencils: Jay Fabok - *Colors:* John Starr

Letters: Josh Reed

Soulfire Created by: Michael Turner

Digital Editors: Frank Mastromauro, Vince Hernandez *Design and Production:* Josh Reed, Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald *Lettering font designed by:* Dreamer Design

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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 3 Issue 0

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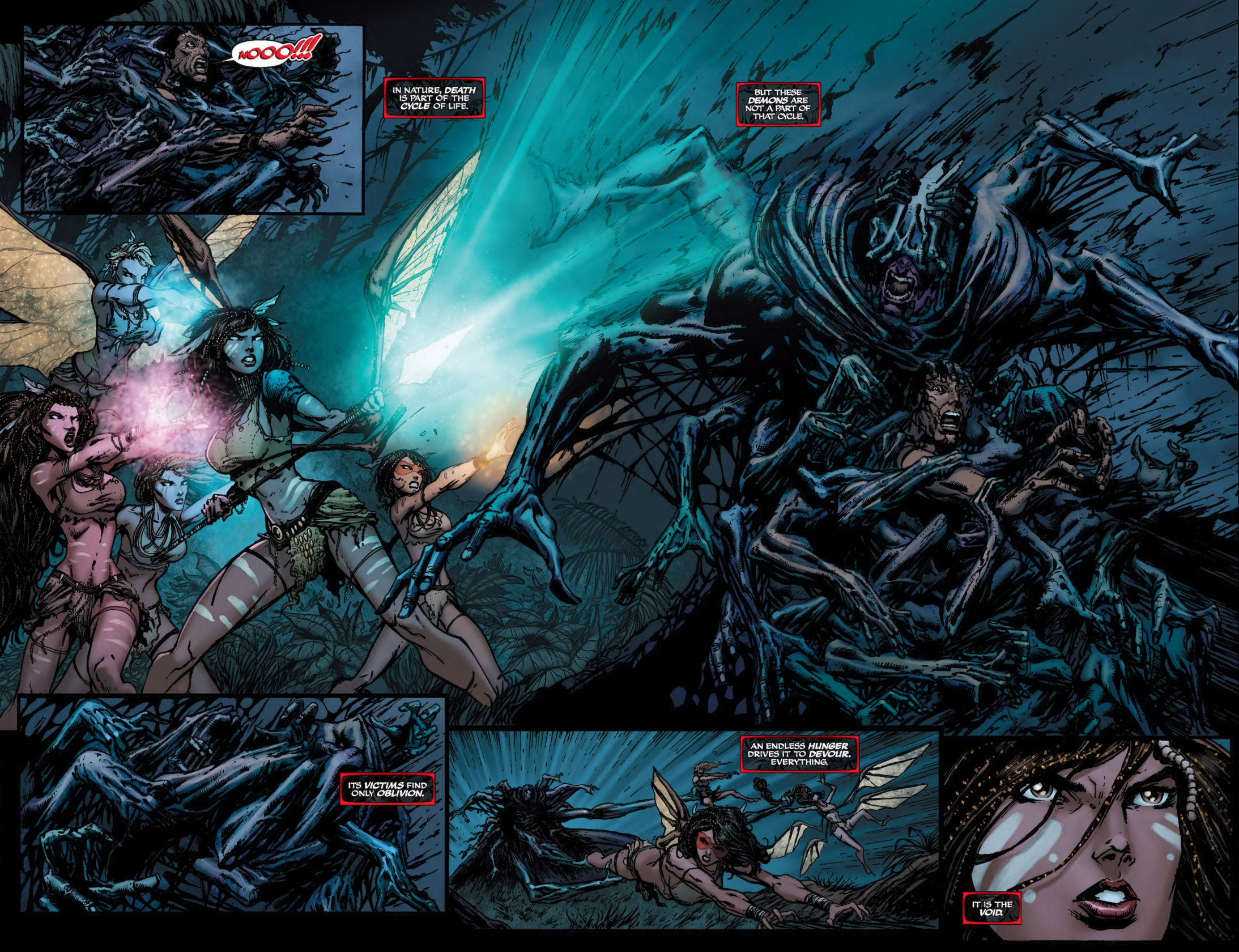
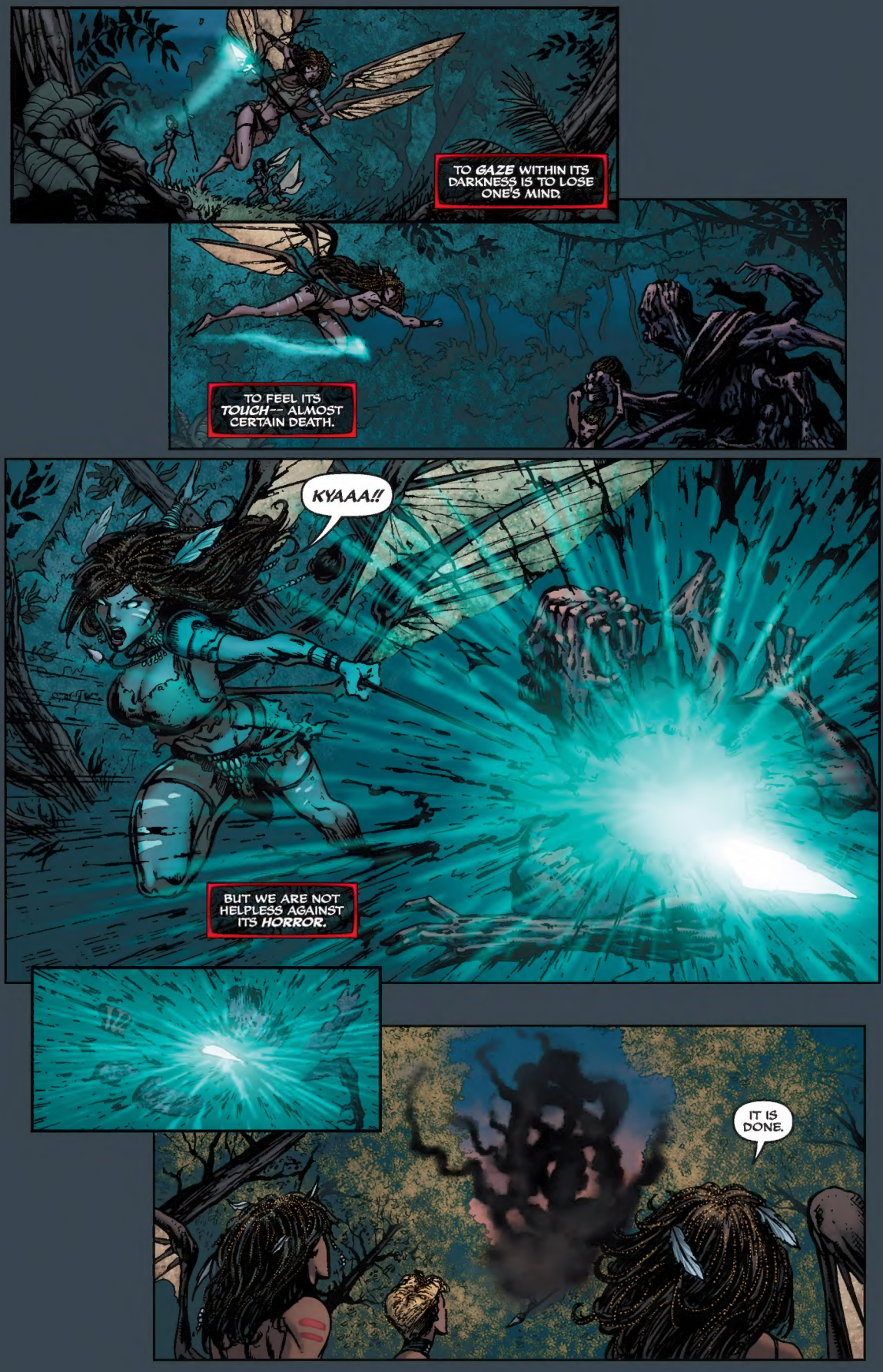
SOMETHING I LEARNED AT AN EARLY AGE.
SOMETHING MY FATHER TAUGHT ME-- FIRST THROUGH HIS WORDS, THEN SADLY THROUGH HIS DEMISE.

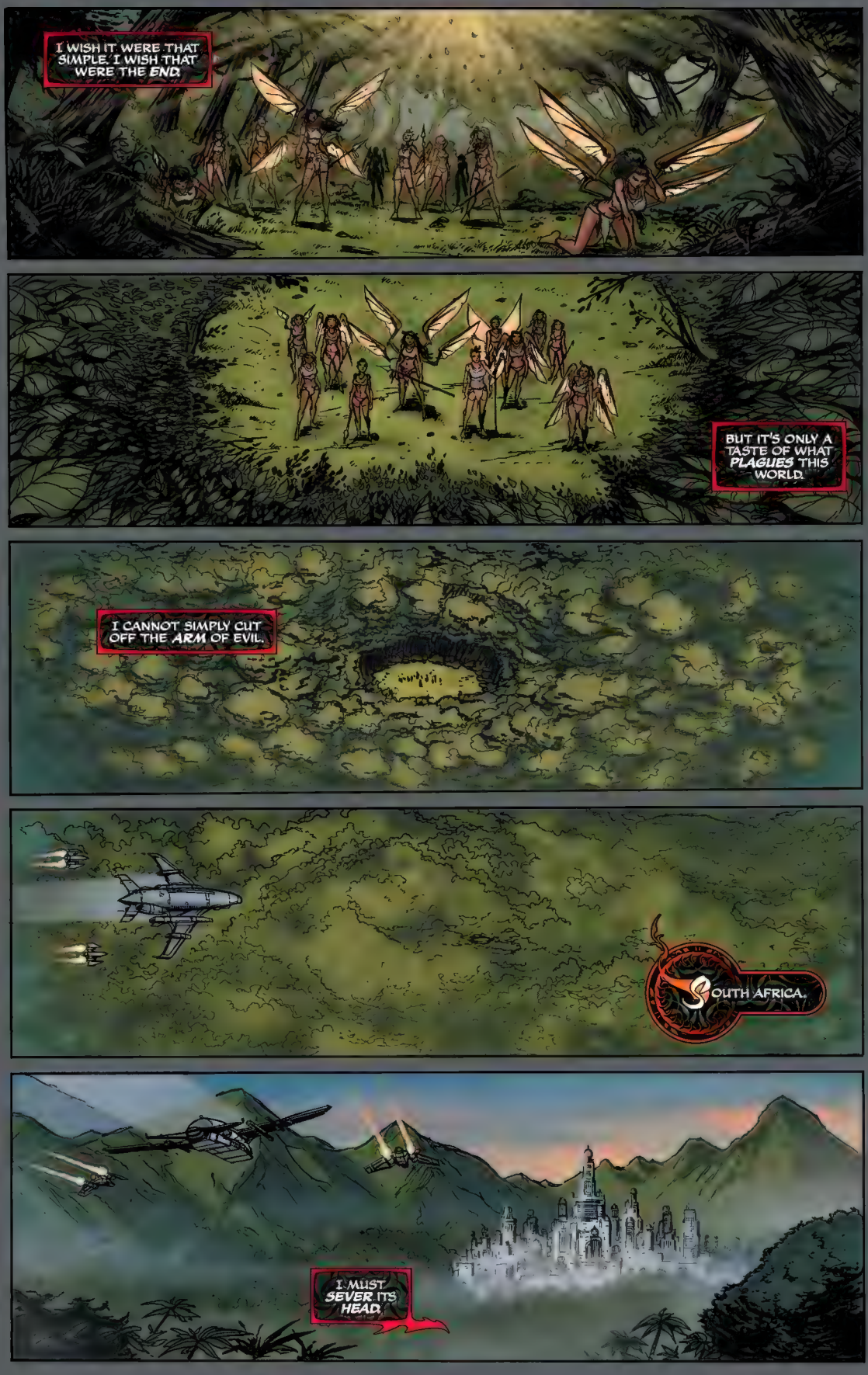
LIFE IS DANGER.
THAT IS OUR CODE. IT'S HOW WE SURVIVE.
I DID NOT CHOOSE TO LEAD OTHERS. THAT ROLE WAS CHOSEN FOR ME BY THOSE IN NEED.
BACK THEN, WE WERE THE HUNTED.
THE SCARED.
THE SLAVES.
NO, NO! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME.
FOOL. WE ARE SAVING YOU.
SAVING ME?!? FROM WHAT?
FROM THAT.
TODAY, WE ARE FREE. TODAY, WE ARE THE HUNTERS.

FIGHTING TO KEEP THE DARKNESS FROM RECLAIMING THIS WORLD.
W-WHAT IS IT?
PRECISELY WHAT IT SEEMS. EVIL. PURE EVIL.

STAY BEHIND ME.
NO! LET ME GO!
WAIT!
AHHHHH!


NOOO!!!
IN NATURE, DEATH IS PART OF THE CYCLE OF LIFE.
BUT THESE DEMONS ARE NOT A PART OF THAT CYCLE.
ITS VICTIMS FIND ONLY OBLIVION.
AN ENDLESS HUNGER DRIVES IT TO DEVOUR. EVERYTHING.
IT IS THE VOID.


TO GAZE WITHIN ITS DARKNESS IS TO LOSE ONE'S MIND.
TO FEEL ITS TOUCH-- ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH.
KYAAA!!
BUT WE ARE NOT HELPLESS AGAINST ITS HORROR.
IT IS DONE.


I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE. I WISH THAT WERE THE END.
BUT IT'S ONLY A TASTE OF WHAT PLAGUES THIS WORLD.
I CANNOT SIMPLY CUT OFF THE ARM OF EVIL.
SOUTH AFRICA.
I MUST SEVER ITS HEAD.

SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.
<IT'S EVEN COLDER THAN LAST NIGHT. DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE.>*
<SPRING.>
<WHEN YOU GONNA STOP BITCHIN' ABOUT IT?>
<IT'S THIS DAMN COAT. MIGHT AS WELL BE NAKED FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'S DOING.>
<I NEED SOMETHING THICK.>
<SOMETHING WARM.>
*<TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.>
<LIKE THAT.>
<SORRY, BROTHER, BUT I NEED YOUR COAT.>
GIVE IT TO ME!>
SORRY, DUDE.

I'M NOT FROM AROUND HERE.
<BASTARD.>
DON'T SPEAK RUSSIAN. BUT I GET THE TONE IN YOUR VOICE.
HRRRGH!
HOPEFULLY, YOU UNDERSTAND THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE-- POWER.

NNNNN...
<ARE YOU OKAY?!?>
WELL, HE WANTED TO GET WARM. HOW ABOUT YOU?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
TO BE CONTINUED IN...
SOULFIRE #1
VOL. 1

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#1
OF 8
COVER A
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
FABOK

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SOULFIRE

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VOLUME THREE
ISSUE ONE

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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 3 Issue 1

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TH-THIS IS NOT RIGHT. YOU SHOULDN'T BE COMING DOWN HERE WITH ME.
EVERLANDS KINGDOM OF ANANTIA.
THE BOOK OF AZAR IS AMONG THOSE FORBIDDEN TEXTS-- ONLY TO BE ACCESSED UNDER THE MOST DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES.
BUT THESE ARE DIRE TIMES, MY BROTHER.
MRRRPHH!
OUR PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING-- SUFFERING THE UNBEARABLE CO-EXISTENCE WITH THE RAHTUMI.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE SETHORII TO RULE ONCE MORE...
...BY REMEMBERING WHERE OUR TRUE STRENGTH LIES.

ONCE AGO, OUR WORLD WAS ONE OF UTTER PEACE AS THE *MAGIC* SURGED THROUGH US ALL—

—INCLUDING RAHTUMI AND SETHORU ALIKE.

BUT TENSIONS MOUNTED AS THE *POWER* OF MAGIC BEGAN TO *WANE*.

EVENTUALLY, WE ALL *LOST* AS THE LAST REMNANTS OF MAGIC *DIED* AWAY— RETURNING US TO *CRAWLING* AMONGST THE DIRT FROM WHICH WE CAME.

LIKE HUNGRY BEASTS BATTLING OVER A CARCASS, THE *RAHTUMI* AND THE *SETHORU* FOUGHT FOR *DOMINANCE*— HOPING TO ENSURE THEIR OWN SURVIVAL.

BUT IT WAS COMING TOGETHER— FORGING A NEW *ALLIANCE*— THAT GAVE US THE *HOPE* TO CARRY ON. IT WAS *PEACE* THAT GAVE US OUR CHANCE AT A FUTURE.

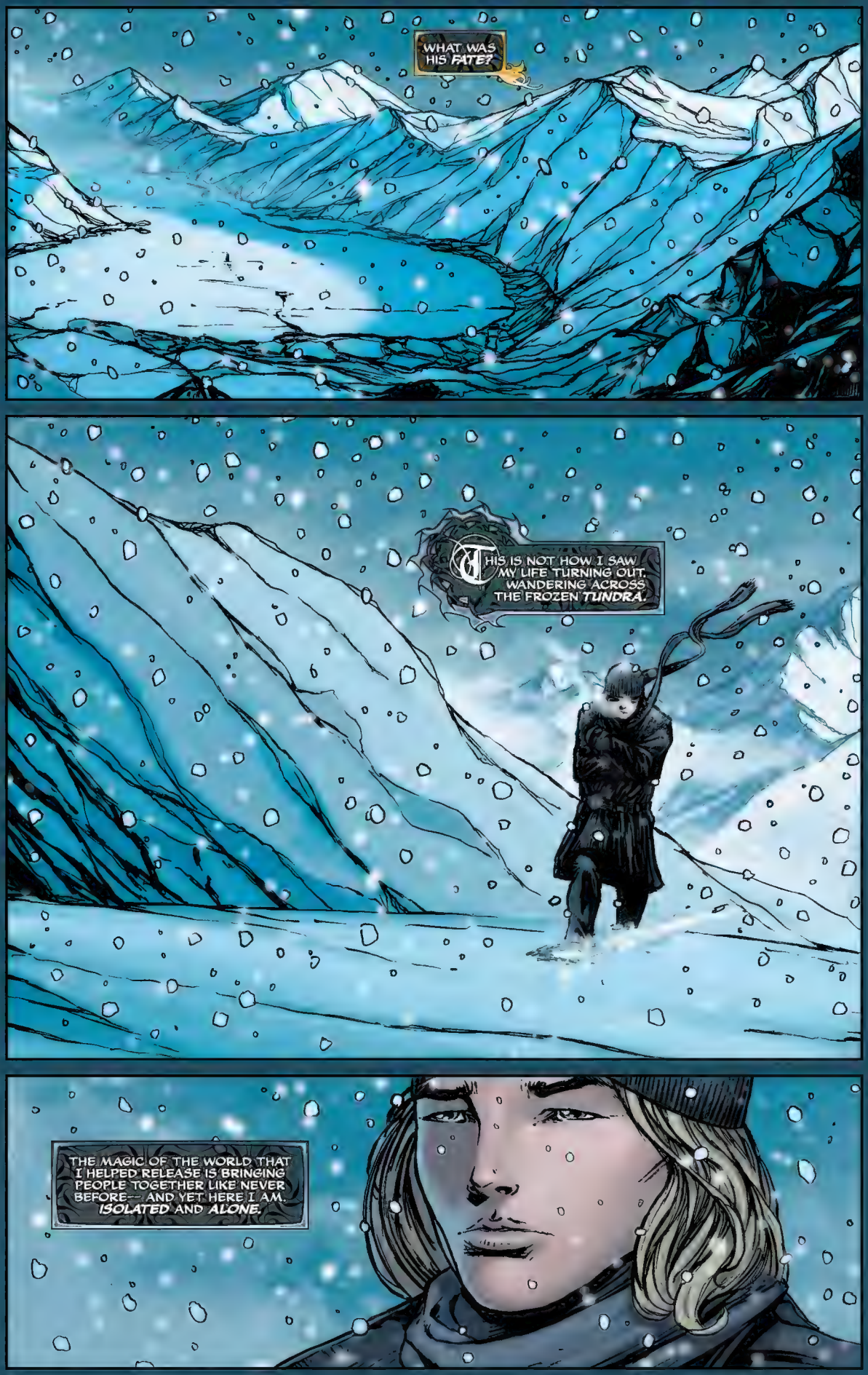
AND NOW-- AFTER HIDING AWAY FOR MANY YEARS-- WE ARE ENJOYING THE NEXT GREAT AGE OF MAGIC TOGETHER.
THE SETHORU AND THE RAHTUMI-- UNITED.
WAIT... THAT CANNOT BE...
...HOW DARE SHE COME TO THIS PLACE.
ONYX!

GRACE, MUST YOU ALWAYS INTERFERE? IT WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU-- SOONER THAN YOU MIGHT EXPECT.
YOUR WORDS ARE AS USELESS AS YOUR FEEBLE POWERS.
YOU SHOULD HAVE REMAINED HIDING IN EXILE. WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
YOU ESCAPED A COWARD LAST TIME. YOU SHALL NOT BE SO LUCKY AGAIN.

KRASH!
WHAT IS THIS?
I STAND *CORRECTED*. THE COWARD IS NOTHING BUT A *THIEF* NOW.
BITE YOUR TONGUE, RAHTUMI...

...BEFORE I REMOVE IT ALTOGETHER.
LOOK AROUND YOU, GRACE. THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED— AND SO SHALL THE POWER OF THE SETHORU.
WHETHER THE RAHTUMI ARE PREPARED OR NOT.

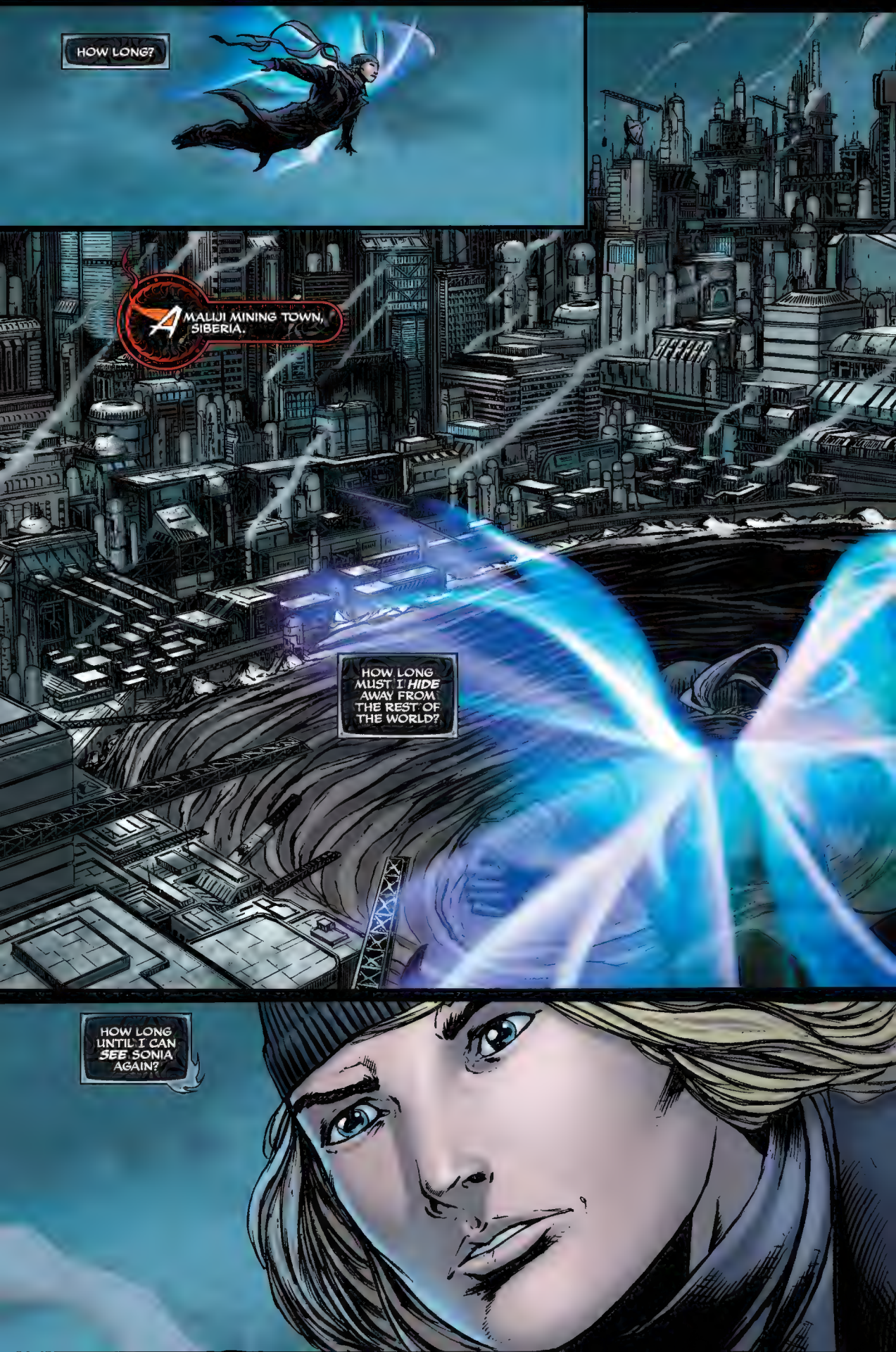
WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT BOOK ONYX ACQUIRED, BUT IT DID COME FROM THE FORBIDDEN ARCHIVES.
MANY OF THOSE OUTLAWED BOOKS RELATE TO BLEAK PERIODS IN OUR SETHORU HISTORY, WHEN OUR PEOPLE WERE AT CONSTANT WAR.
EXACTLY. AND NOW, ONE OF YOUR SETHORU SEEMS INTENT ON RETURNING TO THOSE DARKER DAYS.
MY SETHORU? YOUR WORDS IMPLY THAT WE ALL SHARE ONYX'S TRAITOROUS MIND.
I AM SURE GRACE MEANT NO OFFENSE, ARLIN. IF OUR LONG-STANDING PEACE HAS TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT IS THAT BAD SEEDS CAN BE FOUND IN BOTH RACES.
NEITHER THE SETHORU NOR THE RAHTUMI CAN LAY CLAIM TO NOBILITY AS A VIRTUE— NOR WICKEDNESS AS A VICE.
REGARDLESS OF HER MOTIVE, ONYX MUST BE FOUND, FAYE.
OF COURSE, GRACE. BUT DO NOT LET THIS SMALL EVENT DAMPEN YOUR SPIRITS.
WE ARE STILL ENJOYING THE EARLY THRALLS OF MAGIC'S RETURN. CERTAINLY, THIS IS A TIME FOR ALL TO REJOICE.
YES, THESE ARE BRIGHTER DAYS. THANKS TO MALIKAI.
BUT WHAT WAS HIS PRICE?


WHAT WAS HIS FATE?
THIS IS NOT HOW I SAW MY LIFE TURNING OUT. WANDERING ACROSS THE FROZEN TUNDRA.
THE MAGIC OF THE WORLD THAT I HELPED RELEASE IS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER LIKE NEVER BEFORE-- AND YET HERE I AM. ISOLATED AND ALONE.

WHEN I EXPERIENCED MY FIRST TASTE OF THE POWER WITHIN ME, IT SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME. THOUGHT I WAS LOSING MY MIND.
BUT AS MY JOURNEY BEGAN, WITH GRACE AS MY GUIDE, I SOON REALIZED THE TRUE WONDER AND BEAUTY OF MAGIC.
AND WHEN MAGIC FINALLY RETURNED-- WHEN I REACHED MY POTENTIAL AS THE BRINGER OF LIGHT-- ALL THE MAGIC SURGED THROUGH ME, RADIATING OUT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

BUT IN GAINING SUCH POWER, I STARTED TO SEE SOMETHING ELSE-- A PART OF ME I NEVER KNEW EXISTED.
DARK.
VIOLENT.
ANGRY.
I DIDN'T NEED TO HEAR FROM THOSE CLOSEST TO ME. I SAW THE TRUTH.
SAW IT IN SONIA'S EYES.
I WAS OUT OF CONTROL. DANGEROUS.

I DIDN'T ASK FOR ANY OF THIS. I NEVER WANTED POWER.
ALL I WANTED WAS TO LIVE MY LIFE WITH MY FRIENDS. BE WITH SONIA. WE WERE FINALLY TOGETHER. AND WE WERE HAPPY.
IT'S NOT FAIR.
I KNEW I SCARED HER. HELL-- I SCARED MYSELF.
BUT WHAT AM I DOING OUT HERE?
THIS ISN'T A SOLUTION.


HOW LONG?
MALIJI MINING TOWN, SIBERIA.
BEER
HOW LONG MUST I HIDE AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD?
HOW LONG UNTIL I CAN SEE SONIA AGAIN?

GRACE, I HATE ONYX AS MUCH AS ANYONE. SHE HELPED RAINIER ATTACK OUR KINGDOM, ALMOST DESTROYING US ALL. BUT SHE'S GONE. I SAY GOOD RIDDANCE.
AS LONG AS ONYX IS ALIVE, HER BETRAYAL CONTINUES. OF THAT, I AM CERTAIN.
SHE RISKED A GREAT DEAL RETURNING TO THE KINGDOM.
NONE OF THE SCHOLARS KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHAT WAS IN THE BOOK, BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT ONYX HAS ONLY ONE *GOAL*--
--THE *DESTRUCTION* OF THE *RAHTUMI.*

WE SETHORU HAVE ABANDONED SO MUCH OF OUR HERITAGE IN ORDER TO CO-EXIST WITH THE RAHTUMI.
WE HAVE LIED TO OURSELVES.
WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT OUR HISTORY IS FILLED WITH POWER. A SECRET POWER THAT HAS BEEN DORMANT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
ONLY WE SETHORU WERE VERSED IN THE ART OF SHADOW MAGIC-- A MEANS TO MANIPULATE THE EXISTING MAGICAL ENERGY-- BENDING IT TO OUR WILL.
AZAR WAS ONE OF THE LAST SORCERERS OF SHADOW MAGIC. HE WAS NOT AFRAID-- HE USED THE POWER TO STRIKE AT THE RAHTUMI.
AZAR'S DEVASTATION WAS GREAT...
...BUT ULTIMATELY, HE FAILED TO RETURN HIS PEOPLE TO THEIR FORMER GLORY.
I WON'T.

"DINER OPEN ALL NIGHT" <TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.>
YOU LOST OR SOMETHING?
WHAT MAKES YOU ASK THAT?
THIS AIN'T EXACTLY A TOURIST DESTINATION. THE ONLY YOUNG ONES IN THIS TOWN WERE THOSE BORN IN THIS PIT.
AND, YOU'RE TOO SMALL TO WORK IN THE MINE-- NO OFFENSE.

MAYBE I'M ON MY WAY SOMEPLACE.
ON THE WAY TO WHERE? FROM WHERE? AIN'T NOTHING THIS FAR OUT BUT US.
SO I NOTICED.
WHATEVER THE CASE-- IF YOU MADE IT OUT THIS FAR, YOU COULD USE A DRINK. IT'LL WARM YOU UP.
THANKS, BUT YOU GOT ANYTHING TO EAT AROUND HERE?
SURE. BUT TRUST ME, THE VODKA IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL MAKE THE FOOD PASS FOR EDIBLE.
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.
SUIT YOURSELF.

HEY, BLONDIE.
SORRY. I'LL MOVE OUT OF HERE.
NO, NO. THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME. BUT IT'S FREEZING OUT.
LISTEN, MY BUILDING'S GOT A SPARE UNIT AND THE LANDLORD IS A TOTAL PUSHOVER. MIGHT NOT BE A BED IN THERE...
...BUT I'LL GET YOU A BLANKET, AND AT LEAST IT'LL BE A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD.
ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN BEING OUT HERE ALONE, RIGHT?
RIGHT. THANKS.

TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
WAIT...
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
DARK BEETLES?!?
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
I-- I DO NOT UNDERSTAND...!
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK

AHHHHHH!
TCHK
TO BE CONTINUED IN...
SOULFIRE #2
VOL. 3

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MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
#2
OF 8
COVER A

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COVER B
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
MICHAEL LOPEZ

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

VOLUME THREE
ISSUE TWO

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OURS WAS AN EXISTENCE OF SLAVERY.
TOILING AWAY UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE GOD-LIKE ENTITY KNOWN AS KHAAZ.
WITH HIS UNMATCHED POWER, HE RULED THROUGH TERROR AND DEATH.
UNTIL ONE DAY, WE ROSE UP AGAINST HIM, FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM, AND DESTROYED OUR EVIL MASTER.
SINCE IT WAS MY HAND THAT DELIVERED THE FATAL BLOW...
...MY PEOPLE LOOKED TO ME FOR GUIDANCE.
I BECAME THEIR LEADER-- THEIR PROTECTOR. IT WAS NOT A POWER I SOUGHT, BUT RATHER A DUTY THAT I ACCEPTED.
WE FOUND A NEW HOME-- A SECRET OASIS AS THE REST OF THE WORLD STRUGGLED AND CHANGED. THROUGH IT ALL, WE REMAINED INTACT.
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, WE WERE CONTENT TO LIVE IN OUR SECLUSION, FREE FROM THE VIOLENCE OF MAN.
BUT NO MORE.

FOR THE DARKNESS HAS RETURNED. IT ROAMS WILD ONCE AGAIN-- READY TO DEVOUR ALL LIGHT.
IT MUST BE STOPPED.
AND I MUST STOP IT.

KNOCK KNOCK
HEY, PAULA. MORNING.
AFTERNOON, ACTUALLY.
I'M HEADING OUT. MY SHIFT IS STARTING IN A BIT.
IF YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SCROUNGE UP SOME WORK FOR YOU-- PUT A LITTLE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? READY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE, AGAIN?
BORITHIUM MINE. STUFF'S MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD THESE DAYS. THEY KEEP THIS BABY RUNNING DAY AND NIGHT. NOTHING STOPS THE MACHINE.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID I WAS TOO YOUNG TO WORK THE MINES?
NO. TOO SMALL.
RIGHT. I GUESS TOO YOUNG WAS MY LESS DEMEANING ALTERNATIVE.
TRUST ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK DOWN THERE.
THESE MINERS ARE CHIPPING AWAY AT THEMSELVES DOWN THERE.
I SEE IT IN THEIR EYES EVERY NIGHT WHEN THEY COME BACK TO THE BAR.
YOU CAN'T SPEND ALL YOUR DAYS SURROUNDED BY DARKNESS AND NOT BE AFFECTED.
BUT IT'S WHAT KEEPS THIS PLACE ALIVE.
IT'S OUR BLESSING AND OUR CURSE.

EVERLANDS, KINGDOM OF ANANTIA.
WE'VE SEARCHED THE ENTIRE REGION TO THE EAST AND THE SOUTH. THERE IS NO SIGN OF ONYX.
THANK YOU, GRACE. IT SEEMS YOU HAVE DONE ALL THAT CAN BE ASKED.
I'M NOT GIVING UP, FAYE. WE WILL RESUME OUR SEARCH IN THE MORNING-- COVER THE ENTIRE REGION AGAIN. AS LONG AS ONYX IS OUT THERE, SHE IS A DANGER.
I MUST ADMIT...
...THAT I AM SURPRISED TO HEAR SUCH FEAR IN YOUR VOICE, GRACE.
ONYX IS A LOWLY ASSASSIN. YOU'VE BESTED HER TIME AND AGAIN.
IT IS NOT ONYX THAT I FEAR-- IT IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SHE HAS STOLEN. THE SCHOLARS HAVE UNCOVERED EXACTLY WHAT SHE HAS TAKEN.
THE BOOK OF AZAR. SECRETS IN THE ART OF THE SETHORU SHADOW MAGIC.
AZAR? HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE OF THE GREATEST ATTACKS UPON THE RAHTUMI IN OUR HISTORY.
THERE IS A REASON HIS WORKS WERE FORBIDDEN. THEY POISONED THE MIND OF ANY WHO STUDIED THEM.
HIS SHADOW MAGIC WAS A PLAGUE TO ALL LIFE-- SETHORU AND RAHTUMI ALIKE.
ALL THE MORE REASON WHY I MUST FIND HER.

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.
I SEE SOMETHING.
THERE. WHAT DO *YOU* SEE IN THE DISTANCE?
IS THAT SOME KIND OF *CLOUD?*
THAT'S NO CLOUD.
LOOK OUT!

NO, GET AWAY--!
VALDAR!
AHHHHH!
FEAR NOT, BROTHER. THIS IS NOT YOUR END.

I AM HERE FOR YOUR SALVATION.

RISE MY SETHORU! JOIN ME!
OUR DAY HAS COME!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S OUT THERE?
I CANNOT TELL. SOME CREATURES THAT HIDE THEMSELVES IN THE SHADOWS.
GUARD THE THRONE. I'LL PROTECT THE CITY.

BUT WHO SHALL PROTECT YOU?
ONYX!
STOP HER!
YES... BY ALL MEANS--

—STOP ME.
GHAAH!!
STAND DOWN, MY BROTHERS, AND I SHALL OFFER YOU MERCY.
ONYX, HAVE YOU GONE MAD?!?
MAD? NO. THIS IS A REAWAKENING.
NOW, COWER BEFORE THE TRUE POWER OF THE SETHORU.
ONYX...

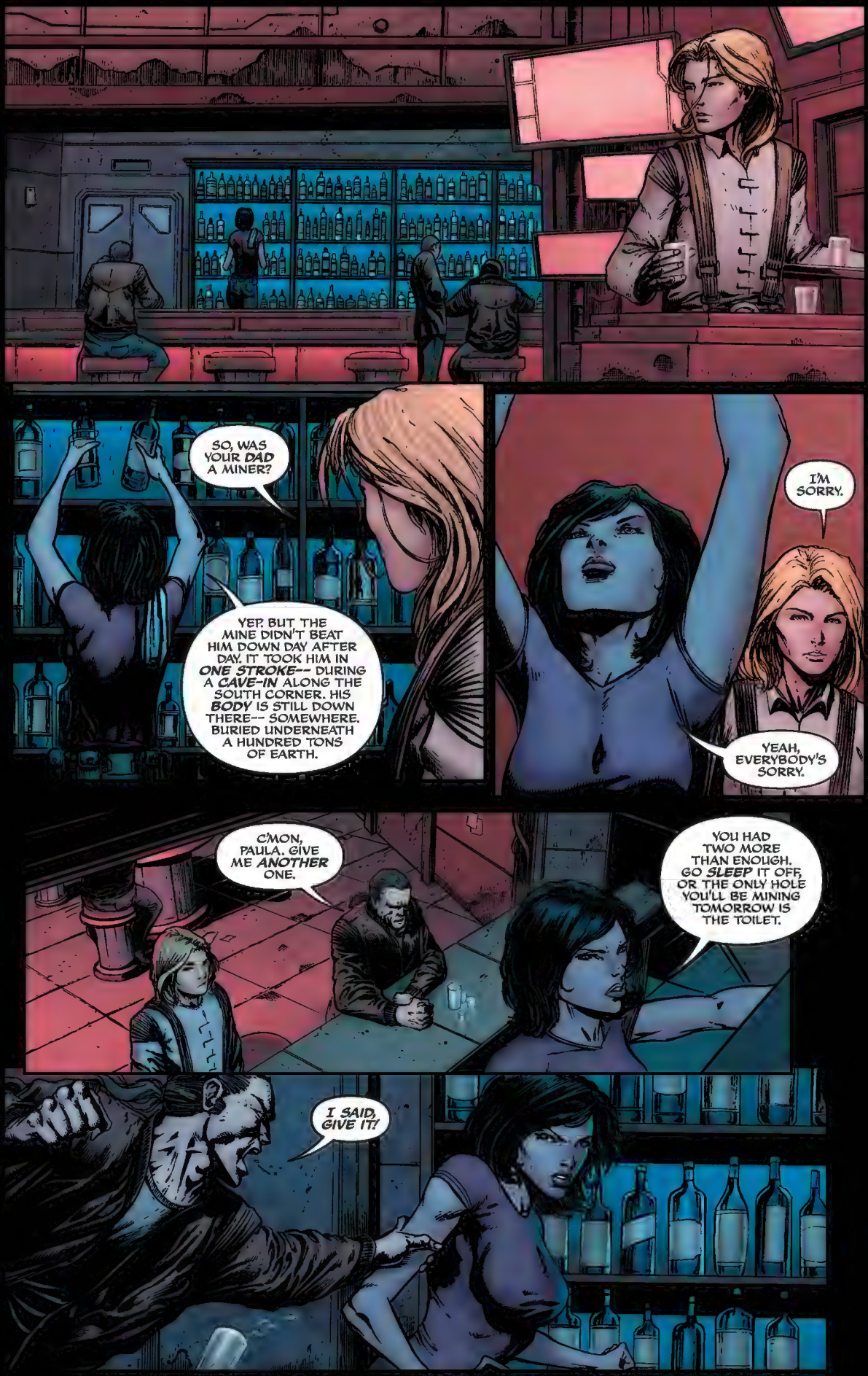
...LET'S SEE HOW *YOU* LIKE BEING CAUGHT OFF GUARD!

COME TO *STEAL* MORE BOOKS?

I COME TO STEAL *NOTHING*, GRACE.

I AM HERE TO *RECLAIM* MY *PEOPLE*.

LONG LIVE THE SETHORU!


SO, WAS YOUR DAD A MINER?
YEP. BUT THE MINE DIDN'T BEAT HIM DOWN DAY AFTER DAY. IT TOOK HIM IN ONE STROKE-- DURING A CAVE-IN ALONG THE SOUTH CORNER. HIS BODY IS STILL DOWN THERE-- SOMEWHERE. BURIED UNDERNEATH A HUNDRED TONS OF EARTH.
I'M SORRY.
YEAH, EVERYBODY'S SORRY.
C'MON, PAULA. GIVE ME ANOTHER ONE.
YOU HAD TWO MORE THAN ENOUGH. GO SLEEP IT OFF, OR THE ONLY HOLE YOU'LL BE MINING TOMORROW IS THE TOILET.
I SAID, GIVE IT!

LET HER GO, NOW. OR I'LL--
ARRRGH!
KR RSHHH
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT, GRACE?
NOT REALLY. YOU'RE THE SAME LACKEY THAT TOILED AWAY AS RAINIER'S ASSASSIN.
LACKEY? ASSASSIN?
PERHAPS THAT WAS THE OLD ME...
...BUT I'VE BEEN REBORN.
I AM NOBODY'S SERVANT ANYMORE.
I AM ONYX— QUEEN OF THE SETHORU.
WITCH OF THE SHADOW MAGIC.

NOOOO...!
AGHH!
-ULLP!-
AWAY!
STAND BACK, ONYX. I AM THE LEADER OF THE SETHORU, AND I SHALL NOT WATCH AS YOU DESTROY OUR RAHTUMI BRETHREN.
I DID NOT COME HERE FOR HER, ARLIN.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MUST PAY.

YOU BETRAYED YOUR PEOPLE, ARLIN. YIELDING OUR POWER. DIVIDING YOUR ALLEGIANCE.

IT ONLY SERVES THAT YOU SHOULD BE JUST AS DIVIDED IN DEATH.

ARLIN...

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE CONTROL OF ANANTIA, ONYX.

I DON'T WANT THIS FEEBLE KINGDOM. IT REEKS OF RAHTUMI. YOU CAN KEEP YOUR PRECIOUS HOME... FOR NOW.

HEAR ME, SETHORU! OUR FUTURE AWAITS! ARLIN HAS FINALLY PAID THE PRICE FOR HIS BETRAYAL.

COME WITH ME NOW AND LIVE AS TRUE SETHORU! OR REMAIN HERE AND DIE WITH THE RAHTUMI!

THEY... THEY ARE ALL LEAVING.

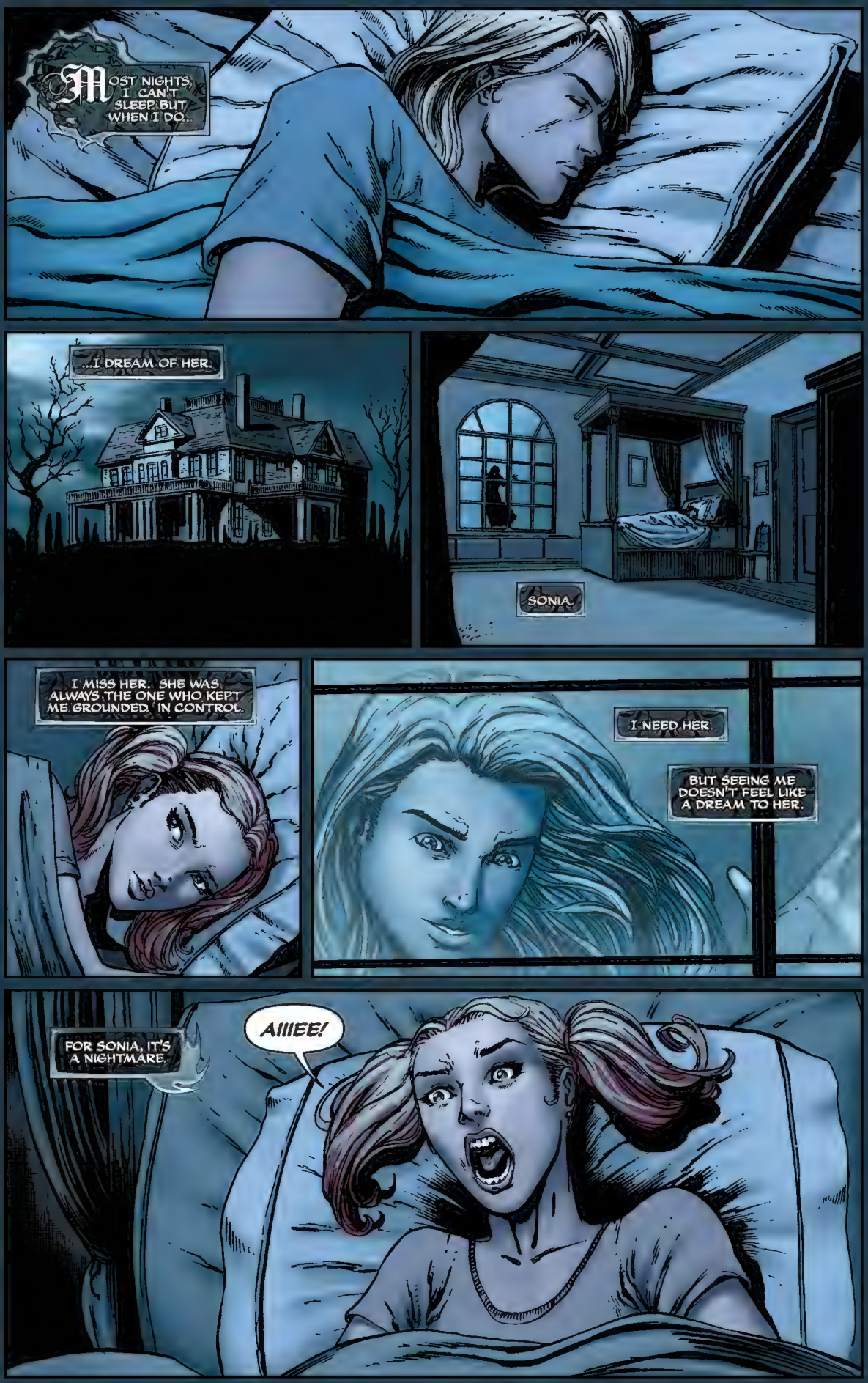
THEY ARE SCARED.

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF PEACE--

--AFTER ALL WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER-- OUR UNION IS GONE IN A FLASH.

AND DEAR ARLIN-- IT'S THE END OF AN ERA.

IT'S THE BEGINNING OF A WAR.


MOST NIGHTS, I CAN'T SLEEP. BUT WHEN I DO...
...I DREAM OF HER.
SONIA.
I MISS HER. SHE WAS ALWAYS THE ONE WHO KEPT ME GROUNDED. IN CONTROL.
I NEED HER.
BUT SEEING ME DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A DREAM TO HER.
FOR SONIA, IT'S A NIGHTMARE.
AIIIEE!

<HAVE YOU NOTICED WE'RE ALWAYS THE LAST ONES TO LEAVE THE BAR?>*
<IT'S 'CAUSE WE GOT STAMINA.>
*<TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN>
<DO YOU HEAR THAT?>
<HELP!>
GRRRGG!
-NNNN...-
MY GOD...!

HELP US!
TO BE CONTINUED IN...
SOULFIRE #3
VOL.3

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#3
OF 8
COVER A
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
FABOK

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#3
OF 8
COVER B
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

MICHAEL TURNER'S

SOULFIRE

VOLUME THREE
ISSUE THREE

Story: J.T. Krul

Pencils: Jay Fabok - *Colors:* John Starr

Letters: Josh Reed

Soulfire Created by: Michael Turner

Digital Editors: Frank Mastromauro, Vince Hernandez | *Design and Production:* Josh Reed, Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald | *Lettering font designed by:* Dreamer Design

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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 3 Issue 3

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Tokyo, Japan.

It festers in the darkness like a disease...

...waiting to strike.

Sydney, Australia.

It has no form. No eyes. No face.

Hawai'i.

But it has a soul. It has a purpose.

Los Angeles, Southwest Conference.

And most importantly, it has a heart—

HOLY BIBLE

MALIJI MINING TOWN, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

—A HEART THAT MUST BE DESTROYED OR THIS WORLD WILL FALL BEFORE THE GROWING CHAOS.

RUN!

NO! SOMEBODY HELP—!

GUNS AREN'T WORKING!

MALIKAI!

WHAT'S WRONG?

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!?

IT'S... IT'S...

..YOUR HAND..?

IT'S OKAY.

I'M KIND OF USED TO THIS.

WHAT IS IT?

DON'T KNOW. DON'T CARE RIGHT NOW.

GET *DOWN!* THIS MIGHT BE *TRICKIER* THAN I THOUGHT.

WHAAM

OKAY. LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE ME... *NOW!*

MALIKAI!

MY GOD! ARE YOU HURT?

I'M FINE.

THAT THING BLASTED RIGHT THROUGH YOU!

I'M TOUGHER THAN I LOOK.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

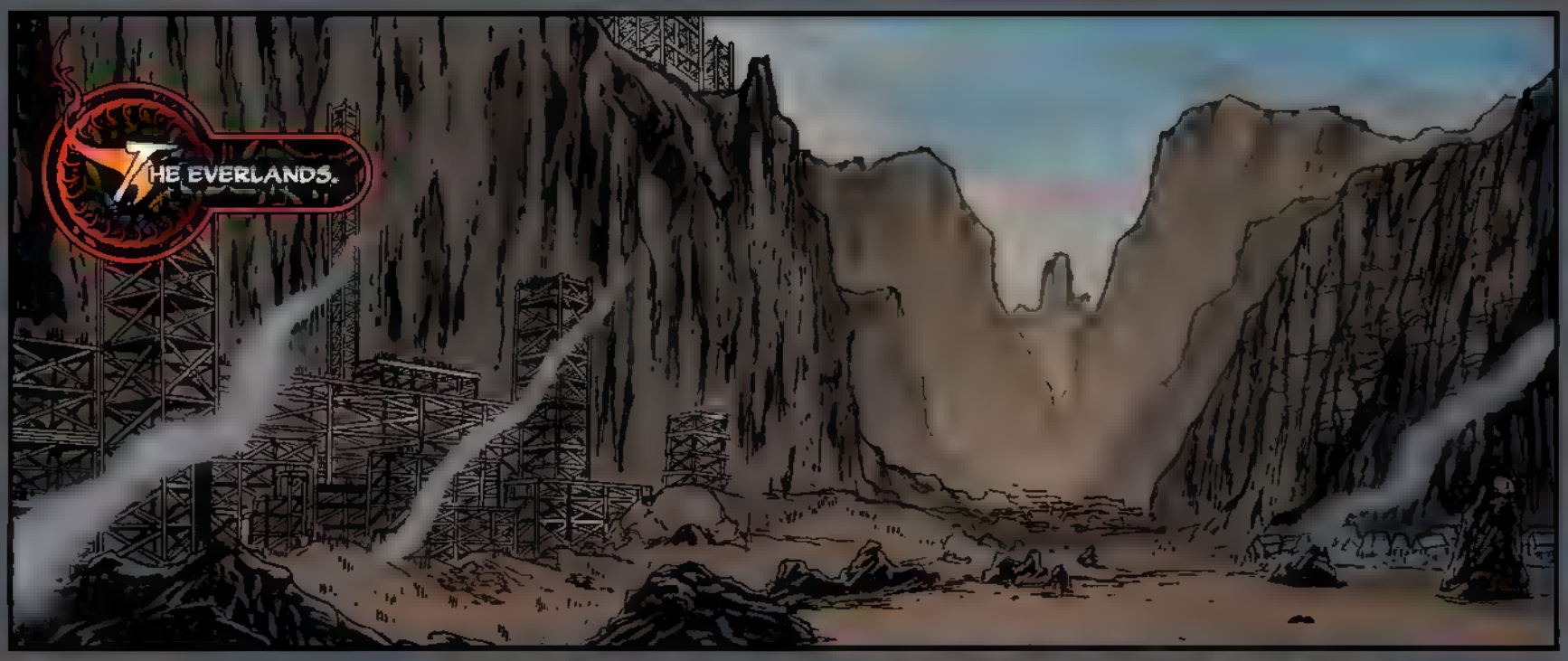
I WATCHED THAT CREATURE KILL A DOZEN PEOPLE-- DRAINED THEIR LIVES AWAY RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

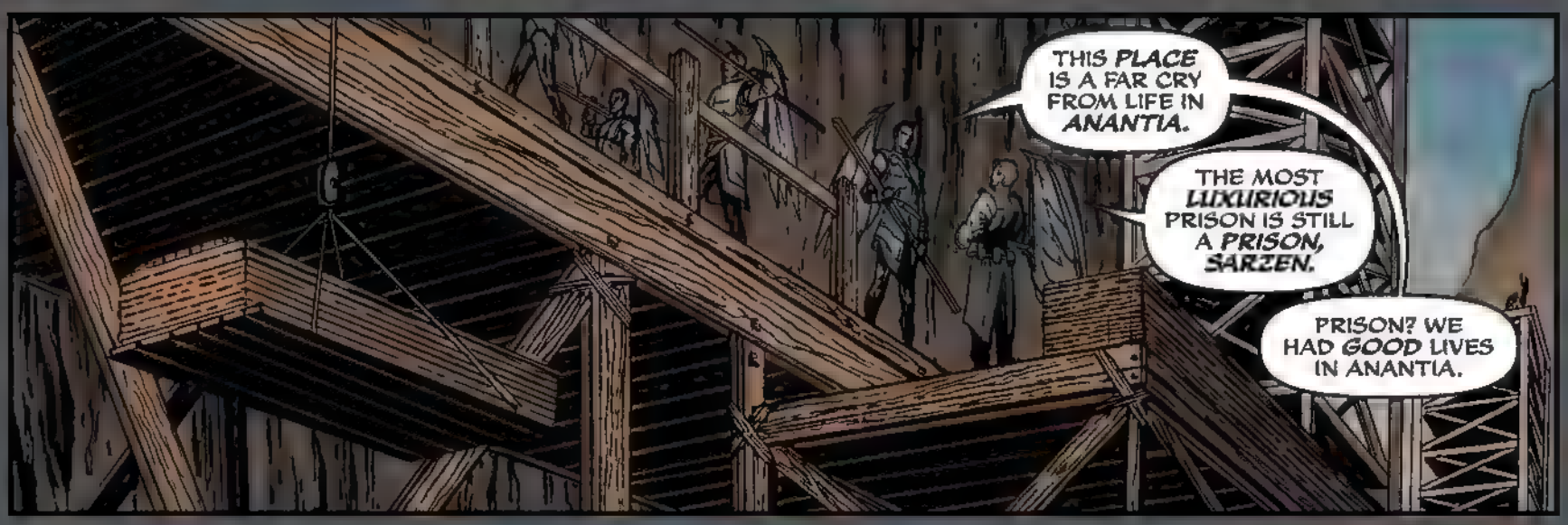
AND YOU JUST START SHOOTING FIRE OUTTA YOUR HANDS?!?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT CREATURE WAS. BAD NEWS-- FOR SURE.

AS FOR ME-- IT WASN'T FIRE. IT WAS MAGIC.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?


THE EVERLANDS.


THIS PLACE IS A FAR CRY FROM LIFE IN ANANTIA.
THE MOST LUXURIOUS PRISON IS STILL A PRISON, SARZEN.
PRISON? WE HAD GOOD LIVES IN ANANTIA.

LIVING UNDER THE THUMB OF THE RAHTUMI.
I DON'T RECALL HEARING YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR OPPRESSION BEFORE NOW.

QUEEN ONYX OPENED MY EYES.
SHE OPENED THEM ALL WHEN SHE EXPOSED ARLIN FOR THE TRAITOR THAT HE WAS.
NOW WE ARE FREE OF HIM-- AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, FREE OF THE RAHTUMI.

SHE SCARES ME-- OUR NEW QUEEN.
ONYX IS OUR SAVIOR. HAVE FAITH, SARZEN. THIS WILL BE THE GREATEST KINGDOM THE SETHORU HAVE EVER BUILT.

FAITH?

"FAITH IN WHAT?"

WHILE THE MASSES CONSTRUCT A *KINGDOM* OUTSIDE WORTHY ENOUGH TO BE THE *HOUSE OF SETHORU*, INSIDE WE MUST BEGIN THE *TRANSFORMATION*.

THE *TIME* HAS COME TO FINISH OUR *JOURNEY* HOME.

WE *LOST* OUR WAY TO THE *RAHTUMI* BECAUSE WE *LOST* SIGHT OF OUR *HERITAGE*.

WE TURNED *AWAY* FROM OUR TRUE SOURCE OF *POWER*— OUR *SHADOW MAGIC*.

WE MUST *RECLAIM* THAT *BOND*. RETURN TO OUR *ROOTS*.

NO! NOOO!

ACCEPT WHO WE *ARE*.

FOR THIS IS *MORE* THAN A NEW *KINGDOM* FOR A NEW *ERA*.

IT IS A REBIRTH.

OUR KINGDOM IS BUT A SHELL OF ITS FORMER SELF SINCE ONYX'S ATTACK AND THE EXODUS OF THE SETHORU.

SOME HAVE REMAINED OUT OF LOYALTY TO ANANTIA, BUT THEY ARE ALL AFRAID.

WE MOURN ARLIN'S DEATH, OUR BELOVED FAYE MOST OF ALL. FOR AGES, THEY RULED TOGETHER— GUIDING BOTH SETHORU AND RAHTUMI THROUGH THE DARKEST OF TIMES.

NOW, THE LIGHT OF MAGIC ONLY SERVES TO SHOW HER EVERYTHING THAT SHE HAS LOST.

IT SEEMS THE ONLY *DIFFERENCE* IS THAT *NOW* WE HAVE SO MUCH *MORE* TO *LOSE*.

GREETINGS, *FAYE*.

TELL ME, GRACE-- *HOW* IS OUR KINGDOM *TODAY?*

IT IS A *BRIGHT* DAY, AND THE PEOPLE ARE MAKING THE *MOST* OF IT.

YET I AM SURE THEY WOULD DO *BETTER* IF THEY SAW *YOU* AMONGST THEM.

I DO *NOT* THINK MY *SAD* EYES WOULD *INSPIRE* ANYONE.

THEY HAVE NOT *SEEN* YOU SINCE ARLIN'S *FUNERAL*. THE KINGDOM IS STILL *STRONG*, BUT THEY MUST KNOW THAT A LEADER REMAINS.

AND THERE ARE DECISIONS TO BE MADE.

I KNOW YOUR MIND, GRACE. YOU WISH TO GO AFTER *ONYX*.

SHE IS A *MURDERER*. SHE *ASSASSINATED* ARLIN.

AND SHE MUST *PAY* FOR HER CRIME AGAINST THE KINGDOM.

I KNOW, GRACE. I WITNESSED HER BRUTALITY FIRSTHAND.

BUT THE SETHORU LEFT WITH HER OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

IN THEIR EYES, ONYX FREED THEM.

IF I SENT YOU AFTER ONYX-- IF YOU BROUGHT HER BACK HERE TO FACE JUDGMENT, OR SIMPLY KILLED HER. WHAT THEN? CIVIL WAR?

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RAHTUMI AND THE SETHORU ALMOST DESTROYED BOTH RACES LONG AGO.

DO WE REALLY WANT TO RISK SUCH AN OUTCOME AGAIN?

IF WE LET ONYX THRIVE-- LET HER BUILD AN ARMY-- YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF MAKING A DECISION. ONYX WILL MAKE IT FOR YOU.

SO YOU MEAN TO BRING THEM ALL BACK? SHALL WE IMPRISON THE ENTIRE RACE? IS THAT WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE ME DO?

I DO NOT KNOW.

BUT I DO KNOW ONYX. WAR IS COMING.

RIGHT NOW, IT IS A WAR WE CAN WIN. BUT IF WE WAIT, YOU WILL NOT NEED TO BE SADDENED ABOUT RULING ALONE--

--BECAUSE WE WILL LOSE EVERYTHING.

THAT *THING* PULLED HIM INTO THE *AIR* LIKE HE WAS *NOTHING* BUT A SCRAP OF *PAPER.*

YES... AND NO. WHAT I SAW WAS *NOTHING.* NOTHING BUT *DARKNESS.*

DID... DID YOU *SEE* IT?

JESUS.

WE DID IT TO *OURSELVES.*

DAMN STRAIGHT.

DUG TOO *DEEP.*

WAY TOO DEEP.

I WAS THERE BACK DURING THE *CAVE-IN.* BARELY MADE IT OUT. BUT I SAW SOMETHING IN THE *DARKNESS.*

THE *SHADOWS.* THEY DID IT. THEY *TOOK* THE OTHERS. *PULLED* THEM UNDER AND KEPT THEM THERE. *BURIED.* THIS WAS THE *SAME* THING.

OKAY, *DAYNA.* THINK YOU'VE HAD *ENOUGH* FOR THE NIGHT.

I'M NOT *DRUNK,* PAULA. AND YOU SHOULD *UNDERSTAND*-- SEEING HOW YOUR *FATHER* WAS ONE OF THE ONES *TAKEN.*

IT WAS A CAVE- IN, *DAYNA.* A STUPID *ACCIDENT.*

NOT SOME *MONSTER.*

FINE. THEN YOU *TELL* ME-- WHAT WAS IT LAST NIGHT? WHAT *KILLED* THOSE PEOPLE?

NO *IDEA.* BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOLKTALES FOR ONE NIGHT.

YOU SHOULD WAIT AND *LEAVE* WITH THE REST OF US-- IT'D BE *SAFER.*

I'LL BE FINE.

HOW YOU HOLDING UP?

IT'S *FREEZING* OUT HERE WHEN ALL YOU DO IS *STAND* AROUND.

STILL DON'T *UNDERSTAND* WHY I COULDN'T COME *INSIDE* TO GET YOU. OR ARE YOU TOO PROUD TO LET PEOPLE KNOW YOU NEEDED AN *ESCORT* HOME?

YOU WISH. IT'S ACTUALLY *ME* PROTECTING YOU.

PEOPLE HERE DON'T LIKE *STRANGERS* AS IT IS. NOW, WE GOT THESE CREATURES *KILLING* PEOPLE, AND THEN THERE'S YOU— AND WHAT YOU CAN *DO*.

IF THEY KNEW, THEY'D *STRING* YOU UP BY YOUR *ANKLES* AND *BEAT* YOU WITH *STICKS*.

I'D *LIKE* TO SEE THEM *TRY*.

WHAT *EXACTLY* IS YOUR DEAL?

I TOLD YOU--

RIGHT. *MAGIC.* NOW TELL ME *AGAIN*-- BUT LESS *VAGUE* AND *MYSTERIOUS.*

THAT'S THE SIMPLEST *EXPLANATION.* MAGIC IS *REAL.* IT'S WHAT I USED AGAINST THAT *CREATURE*, AND MOST LIKELY IT'S WHAT THAT CREATURE IS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MAGIC HAS *ALWAYS* BEEN WITH US, BUT WAS *DORMANT* FOR A LONG TIME. IT'S BACK NOW, BUT STILL UNDER THE *RADAR.* NOBODY REALLY KNOWS IT *EXISTS.*

AND IF YOU THINK THIS IS *WEIRD*, I COULD TAKE YOU TO A *PLACE* WHERE ALL THE PEOPLE *FLY* AND THERE ARE HONEST-TO-GOD *DRAGONS.*

ENCHANTED WORLDS? NOW, YOU'RE JUST MAKING *FUN* OF ME.

OKAY, YOU *ASKED.*

SEE? HOW *ELSE* WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO *EXPLAIN* IT?

DAAAMN.

OKAY, OKAY. I *GOT* IT!

NOW, GET *DOWN* BEFORE SOMEONE *SEES* YOU.

I COULD TAKE YOU FOR A *RIDE* IF YOU LIKE.

I *DON'T* WANT TO GO FOR A RIDE. COME ON!

NO. I KIND OF *LIKE* THIS.

YOU LOOKING *UP* TO *ME* FOR A *CHANGE.*

MAL! LOOK OUT IT'S--

WE'VE FOUND HIM!

FAIRIES?!?

REMEMBER, ATTACK SWIFTLY!

DO NOT HESITATE.

NNNN...

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!?

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU LADIES ARE, BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

I WASN'T LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, BUT CLEARLY YOU ALL ARE. SO FINE--

--I'LL *PLAY.*

MAL! LOOK!

THOSE *CREATURES.* THEY'RE *BACK!*

GREAT. JUST *GREAT.* WHEN IT *RAINS* IT--

--POO- *OOPH--*

THERE WILL BE NO *ESCAPE.*

THE *TIME* HAS COME--

---YOUR *LIGHT* WILL *DIE.* ONCE AGAIN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN... RICHARD TAYLER'S SOULFIRE #4 VOL.3

ASPEN
VOL. 3
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
#4
OF 8
COVER A

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#4
OF 8
COVER B
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

MICHAEL TURNER'S

SOULFIRE

VOLUME THREE
ISSUE FOUR

Story: J.T. Krul

Pencils: Jay Fabok & Ryan Ottagawa - *Colors:* John Starr

Letters: Josh Reed

Soulfire Created by: Michael Turner

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You'd think that when someone comes to *kill* you— at the very least, you'd know *why*.

Wait! I don't even know *who* you are!

That is *irrelevant*.

I *know*. That is *all* that matters.

This *crazy* lady reminds me of someone. And not *Grace*. Though they are both *magical warriors*.

In my head, I can picture her... *younger*— but just as *mean*.

Enough daydreaming. Got to get out of here.

Have to get *Paula* someplace safe.

Sh-she *stabbed* you!

Believe it or not, it's not the *first* time.

Where are we going?

Anywhere but here.

THERE WILL BE NO *ESCAPE* THIS TIME.

YOUR *SOUL* WILL BE DESTROYED!

WAIT! STOP! I'M NO THREAT TO YOU!

KRA-KOOM

THE *ENTIRE MOUNTAIN* IS COMING DOWN!

I CAN'T *FIGHT* ALL OF THEM AND *PROTECT* YOU AT THE SAME TIME.

WHAT *CHOICE* DOES THAT LEAVE US?

DOWN.

WE'LL MAKE IT! THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!

WAIT. NO!

THE *DARKNESS* OF THE MOUNTAIN CANNOT PROTECT YOU.

I AM *NOT* AFRAID OF YOU.

OKAY, THIS SEEMED LIKE A *BETTER* IDEA A MINUTE AGO.

IT'S CAVING IN!!!

PAULA?

YEAH.

YOU OKAY?

I'M GOING TO GO WITH *NO* FOR AN ANSWER.

ARE YOU HURT?

NOT HURT. BUT *FREAKING* OUT.

IN WHAT WORLD DO YOU COME FROM WHERE GETTING TRAPPED AND BURIED IN A MINE IS A *PREFERENCE?*

WHO ARE THOSE AMAZON-LOOKING WOMEN? AND THOSE *CREATURES?*

WHO ARE *YOU?!?*

I AM... WHAT SOME CALL A *SAMUSARA.* A BRINGER OF LIGHT. A CATALYST FOR *MAGIC.*

OVER THE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS. BEINGS LIKE ME. AND, WE ARE ALL CONNECTED-- LIKE AN *ANCESTRAL* LINEAGE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT WOMAN IS, BUT SOMEHOW I *REMEMBER* HER--

REMEMBER HER BLADE.

CHANTING RINGS IN MY HEAD. A NAME.

KHAAZ.

A SAMUSARA FROM A LONG TIME AGO.

HE WAS RUTHLESS AND BRUTAL.

FEARED BY ALL.

BUT THAT GIRL-- THAT WARRIOR-- SHE STOOD AGAINST HIM.

SHE SEEMS TO HATE ME AS MUCH AS SHE HATED HIM.

SHE EXTINGUISHED HIS LIGHT.

AND SHE WANTS TO DO THE SAME TO ME.

NO!

AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER—

—I NEVER HAD A *FAMILY.*

NEVER HAD A *HOME...*

ARMINGTON HOME FOR BOYS, 2206

I HAD A PRISON.

COLD AND CRUEL

MY MIND WAS OBLIVIOUS, BUT MY *SPIRIT* REMEMBERED ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE THAT WAS MUCH THE SAME.

DARK AND DEPRESSING

ISOLATED AND ALONE

WELL, NOT ALL ALONE. BUT I WISHED THAT HAD BEEN THE CASE.

STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD *CALL* YOU--

--BLONDIE OR CINDERELLA.

NEW KIDS ALWAYS SINGLED ME OUT. MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE I HAD BEEN THERE THE *LONGEST*. OR MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS THE *SMALLEST*.

NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERED. THE *RESULT* WAS THE *SAME*.

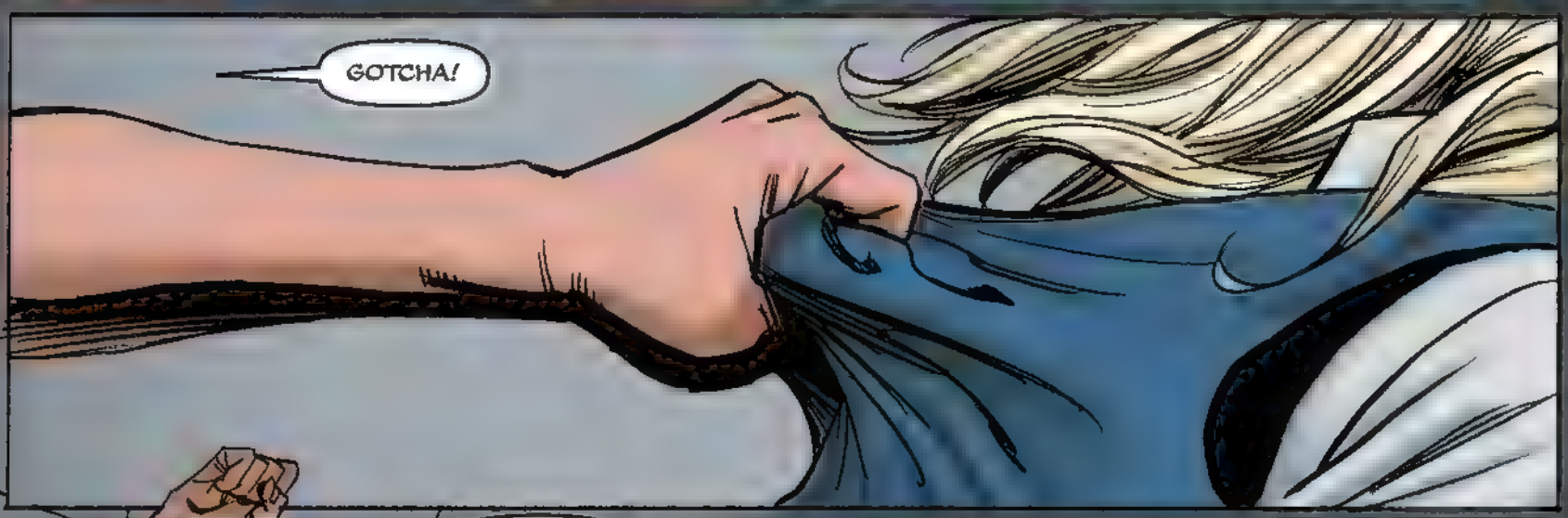
MMMFF...!

LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT SOME MORE CLEANING UP TO DO.

I THINK YOU'RE *RIGHT*.

HA HAHAHAHAHA

ACK!
GROSS!


GOTCHA!

YER GONNA EAT THAT MOP, SPAZ!
MALIKAI!
CLEAN UP THIS MESS!
AND YOU BOYS-- EITHER GRAB A MOP OR GET TO YOUR ROOM!
LUCK SAVED ME THAT DAY.

BUT SOONER OR LATER, MY LUCK ALWAYS RAN *OUT.*

GUESS IT WAS *FATE.*

NOTHING I COULD REALLY DO ABOUT IT. THERE WAS *NOBODY* IN MY CORNER.

JUST ME AND MY *SHADOW.*

THERE'S NO ONE HERE TO SAVE YOU NOW!

UNGHHH!

PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE JUST TAKEN MY *BEATING*. I'D DONE IT BEFORE.

I DON'T *NEED* SAVING!

BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED. I FELT A *SPARK* IN MY GUT.

IT HAPPENED BEFORE, NOT EXACTLY THE SAME.

BUT ANOTHER CHALLENGE

ANOTHER FACED WITH *DIRE* CIRCUMSTANCES.

RAWR!

HE *FOUGHT* BACK: NOT FOR HIMSELF, FOR *OTHERS.*

STAY DOWN!

HE KNEW *HE* WAS DOING *RIGHT.*

HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE *CONSEQUENCES.*

AND AT THE TIME—

—NEITHER DID I.

THEY DIDN'T KILL ME.

BUT IT WASN'T FOR LACK OF TRYING.

LYING THERE HELPLESS, I THOUGHT OF THE DARKNESS.

NOT OF DEATH—

THE YEAR 2012

—BUT OF LIFE...

SQUAWK

TO BE CONTINUED IN...
MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE #5 VOL.3

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#5
OF 8
COVER A
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
FABOK
2011

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#5
OF 8
COVER B
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

MICHAEL TURNER'S

SOULFIRE

VOLUME THREE
ISSUE FIVE

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AT FIRST GLANCE, IT MIGHT SEEM LIKE A *BAD* SITUATION.

TRAPPED IN A MINE WITH A COUPLE HUNDRED TONS OF RUBBLE BETWEEN US AND THE NIGHT SKY.

BUT IT'S BETTER THAN BEING UP THERE-- WITH *RAHTUMI AMAZONS* AND STRANGE *FACELESS CREATURES* BOTH HUNTING AFTER ME.

IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF *PEACEFUL* DOWN HERE.

IT'S OKAY, *PAULA.*

RIGHT. WE'RE BURIED ALIVE AND YOU THINK IT'S JUST *PEACHY.*

HEY, I GET IT. I REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT YOUR *FATHER.* HOW HE *DIED* IN A CAVE-IN YEARS BACK.

BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. WE'RE *ALIVE*-- AND *SAFE.*

YOU'RE CRAZY. WE'RE GOING TO DIE IF WE STAY HERE. I DON'T CARE WHAT'S WAITING FOR US UP THERE. I WANT *OUT* OF THIS MINE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE *AFRAID.*

THE YEAR 2012.

EWWWW.

THEY'RE ALL-- LIKE-- DEAD.

THINK IT WAS LIGHTNING OR SOMETHING?

WHO KNOWS.

IT'S DISGUSTING.

WEIRD.

DON'T TOUCH IT!

IT CAN'T HURT ME.

HEY! DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED?

AHHHH!

NOOO!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?!?

WAKE UP! PLEASE! WAKE UP.

I-IT'S MY BROTHER.

IT'S OKAY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID.

THIS IS *CRAZY.*

DID YOU EVER HEAR ABOUT THAT STORY? ABOUT THE *MAYAN CALENDAR?* ALL THAT *END OF THE WORLD* STUFF?

ISN'T THIS THE YEAR IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN? SOMETHING *BIG?*

THIS IS WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT, ISN'T IT?

AN *APOCALYPSE*— A SIGN FROM *GOD.*

THIS IS *NOT* THE *END* OF TIMES.

WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE? WHAT ELSE COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS?

ME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU?!?

I DID IT. *I FREED* THEM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

FREED THEM? F-FROM WHAT?

FROM THEIR *SUFFERING.*

DAY AND NIGHT, I SAW THEIR *STRUGGLE,* HEARD THEIR COMPLAINTS. ALL OF THEM. THIS REALM--

--IT *SUFFOCATES* US.

THEIR JOURNEY CONTINUES *BEYOND* THIS WORLD.

HOW? HOW DO YOU KNOW IT DOES?

YOU CAN'T SEE IT?

LET ME SHOW YOU.

NO...

NOOOOO!

THE YEAR 2061.

STILL DON'T KNOW HOW WE SCORED THIS CRAP MISSION.

WHEN I WAS A KID, I THOUGHT GOING TO NEW REACHES OF SPACE WOULD BE COOL.

NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE TWO-YEAR TRIP JUST TO GET THIS FAR. WHO KNEW SPACE COULD BE SO UTTERLY BORING.

NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS BORING TO ME.

I'VE WAITED MY WHOLE LIFE TO GET TO THIS POINT.

THE EDGE OF ALL WE KNOW. WE'RE FARTHER OUT THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN-- EVER.

GIVE IT A FEW MORE MISSIONS. THE NOVELTY WEARS OFF REAL FAST.

THIS IS MY ONLY MISSION.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!? ARE YOU CRAZY?!?

YOU SEE THIS AS THE END OF YOUR JOURNEY.

FOR ME, IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

THEY SAY THAT *SPACE* IS A BIG NOTHINGNESS. *SILENT* AND *EMPTY.*

BUT *I FEEL* IT. LIKE A STRONG *WIND* CARRYING ME ALONG.

IT'S *ALIVE.*

I'M ALIVE.

WHAT FIRE BURNS WITHIN MY SOUL?

WHY DO MOST FEAR THE UNKNOWN?

ASSUMING THE WORST, THEIR MINDS GO TO DARK PLACES.

NEVER REALIZING THAT THE MYSTERIOUS IS TRULY MAGICAL.

INSTEAD, IT CRIPPLES THEM LIKE A DISEASE.

SPREADING AND GROWING ALL-CONSUMING.

WHATEVER MONSTROUS EVIL THEY CREATE IN THEIR MINDS IS ALWAYS WORSE THAN ANY REALITY.

OR IS IT?

MAL... THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.

JUST STAY CLOSE. UNDERSTAND?

NO. I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT. WHY AREN'T THEY ATTACKING?

ARE YOU COMPLAINING?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE WAITING FOR, AND I DON'T REALLY CARE TO FIND OUT.

HANG ON!

DAMN. HOPED THEY WOULD'VE LOST INTEREST BY NOW.

THIS REALLY ISN'T MY NIGHT.

KILL HIM!

KILL THE SAMUSARA!

THESE WOMEN REALLY HATE YOU. DID YOU ***ABUSE*** THEM IN SOME PAST LIFE OR SOMETHING?

DON'T JOKE. YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

NO MATTER THE SHAPE YOU HOLD OR THE NAME YOU TAKE, YOU CANNOT HIDE YOUR BLACK HEART FROM ME.

YOU ARE A *KILLER.*

EVIL PERSONIFIED.

THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE *CHAOS* OF THIS WORLD.

YOU MUST BE DESTROYED!

ARRGH!

MAL!

AHHHHHH!

HELP ME--

--NNNGG..

STOP!

THOSE CREATURES HAVE HER!

PLEASE.

YOU ARE A *FOOL.*

THEY'RE *KILLING* HER!

NO.

IT IS *YOU,* MALIKAI.

IT'S ALL *YOU.*

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO--

SHUT UP!

P-PAULA?

NOOOOO!

WHAT HAPPENED, MIYA?

WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS.

THE *CHAOS* HAS CONSUMED ANOTHER *SPIRIT.*

I-I'M SO SORRY, PAULA.

SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE COME TO YOUR TOWN.

MAYBE THAT *CRAZY WITCH* IS RIGHT. MAYBE, IT'S ME. TROUBLE HAS A WAY OF FINDING ME NO MATTER WHAT.

LOT OF GOOD MY WORDS DO YOU, NOW. I-I...

WHAT *IS* THIS?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE #6 VOL.3

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#6
OF 8
COVER A
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

ASPEN
VOL. 3
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
#6
OF 8
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

VOLUME THREE
ISSUE SIX

Story: J.T. Krul

Pencils: Jay Fabok - *Colors:* John Starr

Letters: Josh Reed

Soulfire Created by: Michael Turner

Digital Editors: Frank Mastromauro, Vince Hernandez *Design and Production:* Josh Reed, Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald *Lettering font designed by:* Dreamer Design

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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 3 Issue 6

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Machu Picchu.
For most people, this is nothing but a TOURIST site. A bunch of RUINS.
But there is a SECRET below-- a passageway to a HIDDEN WORLD.
The last time I came here, I had FRIENDS with me. I had SONIA.
I faced my FEARS.
And discovered what I truly was. The SAMUSARA-- the bringer of light.
I learned the hard way that the power of magic can be PAINFUL.

THE EVERLANDS.

BUT IT WAS STILL *BEAUTIFUL.*

I MAY HAVE BEEN THE *CATALYST* FOR THE RETURN OF MAGIC, BUT THE *DRAGONS*-- THEY ARE *CONNECTED* TO THE MAGIC IN A WAY I COULD ONLY DREAM OF.

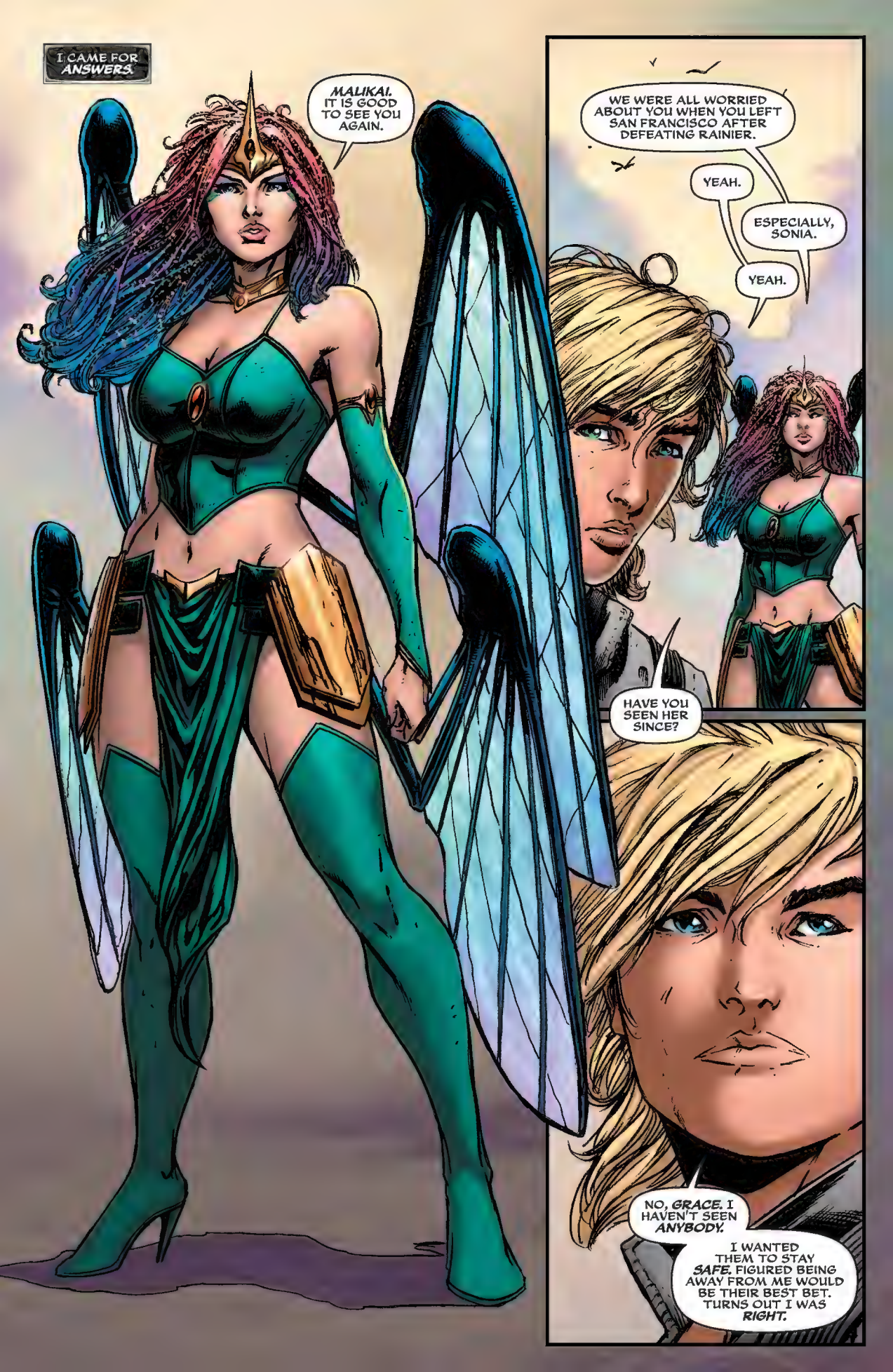
IT LIES AT THE VERY *HEART* OF THEIR EXISTENCE. WITHOUT MAGIC THERE ARE NO DRAGONS. BUT WITHOUT DRAGONS, THERE IS NO MAGIC.

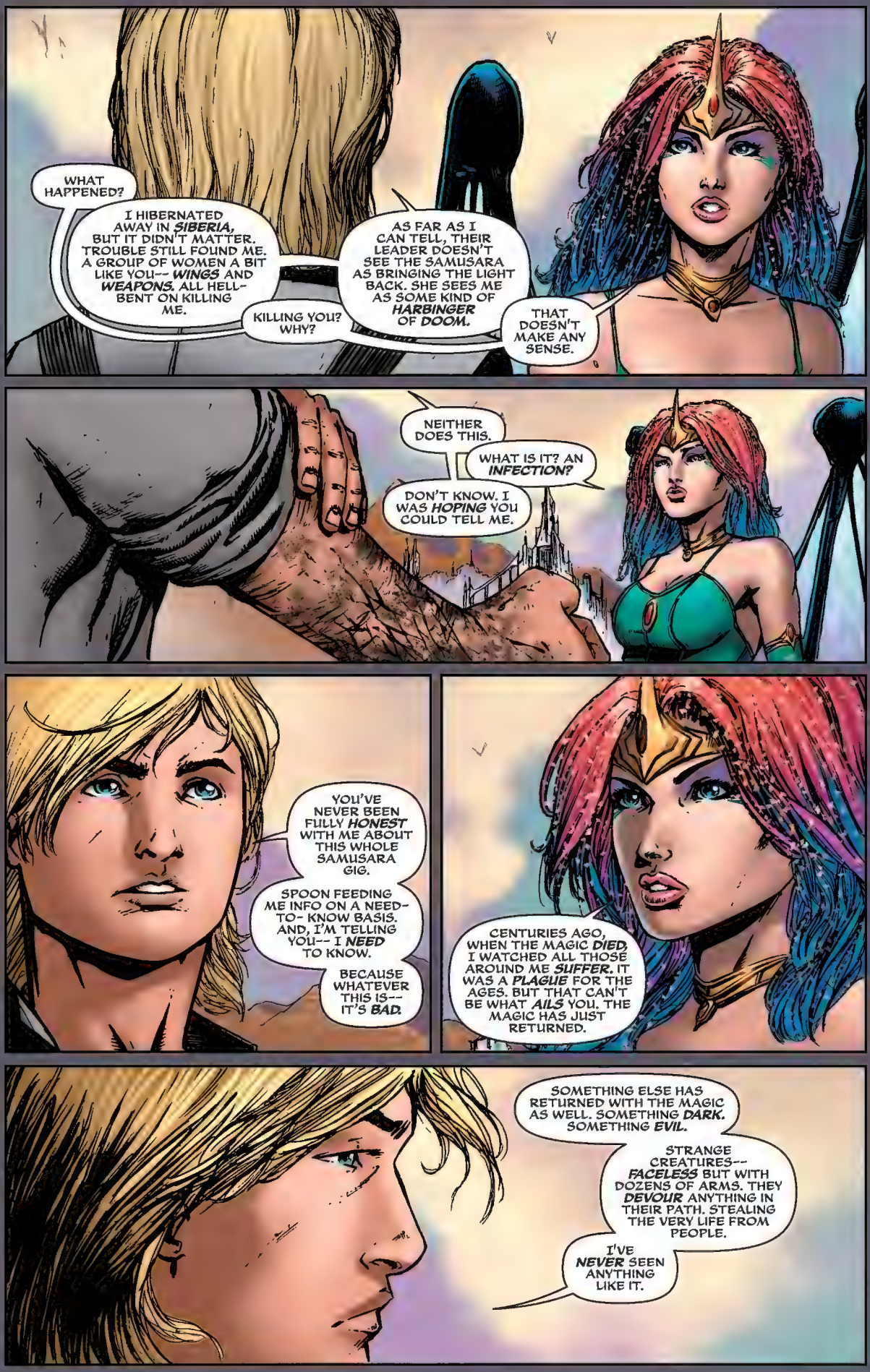
LAST TIME I CAME TO *ANANTIA*, I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM *RAINIER*. NOW, I AM RUNNING AWAY FROM A TRIBE OF CRAZY *AMAZON WARRIORS*.

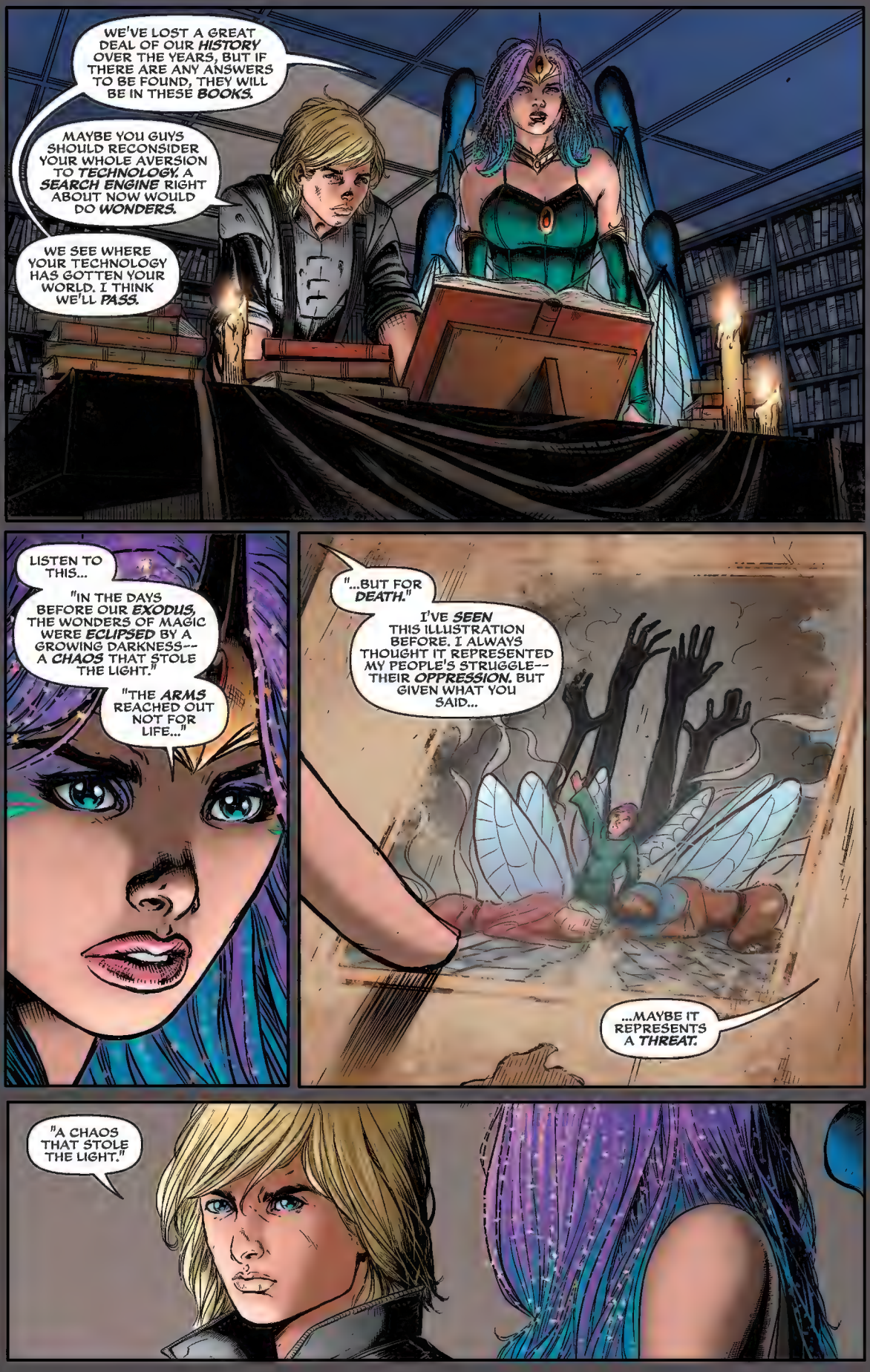
WHY DOES THERE ALWAYS SEEM TO BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO WANTS TO *KILL* ME?

BUT I'M *NOT* RUNNING FROM ANYONE THIS TIME.

I DIDN'T COME TO *HIDE*.

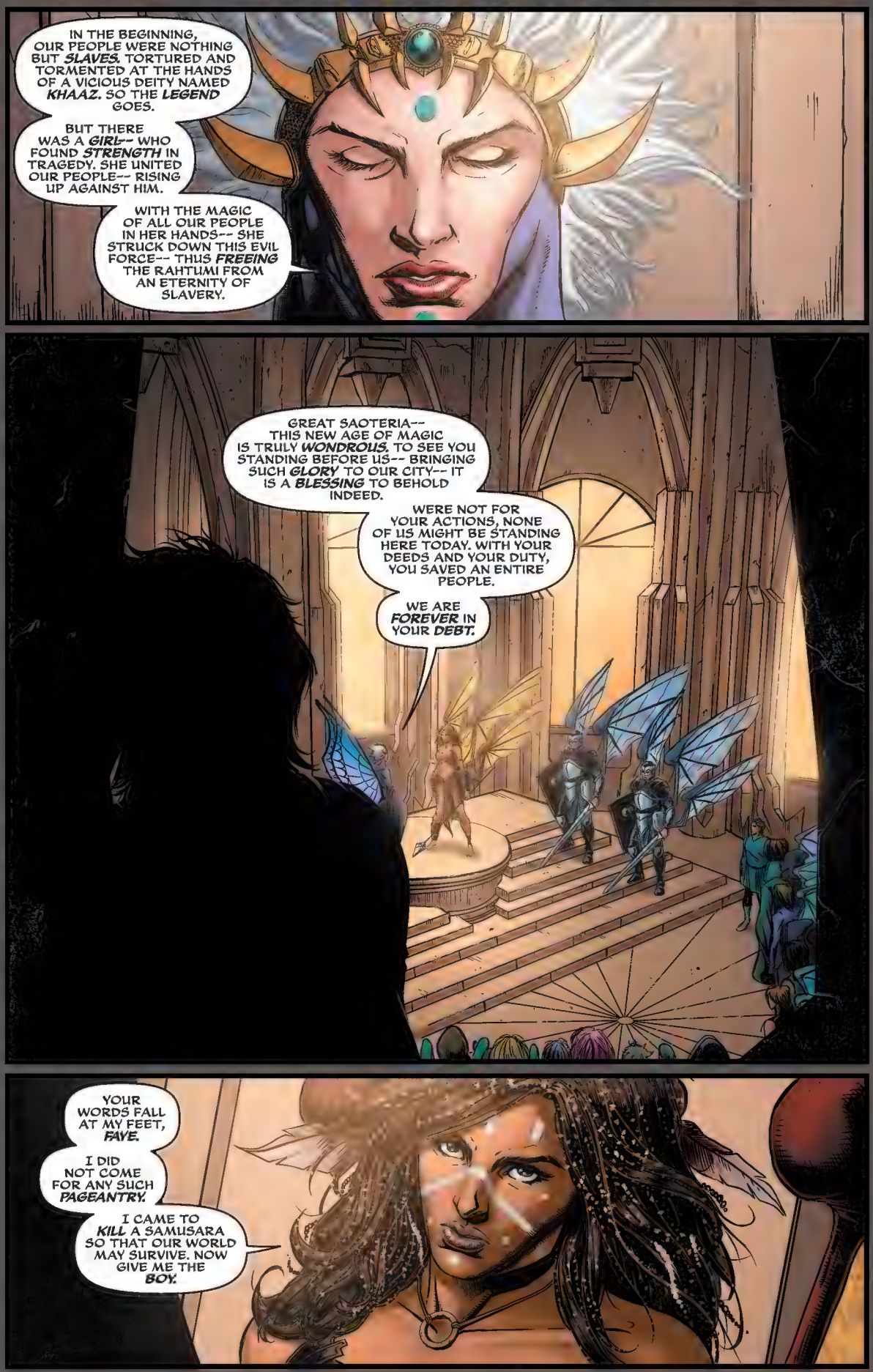

I CAME FOR ANSWERS.
MALIKAI. IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
WE WERE ALL WORRIED ABOUT YOU WHEN YOU LEFT SAN FRANCISCO AFTER DEFEATING RAINIER.
YEAH.
ESPECIALLY, SONIA.
YEAH.
HAVE YOU SEEN HER SINCE?
NO, GRACE. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYBODY.
I WANTED THEM TO STAY SAFE. FIGURED BEING AWAY FROM ME WOULD BE THEIR BEST BET. TURNS OUT I WAS RIGHT.

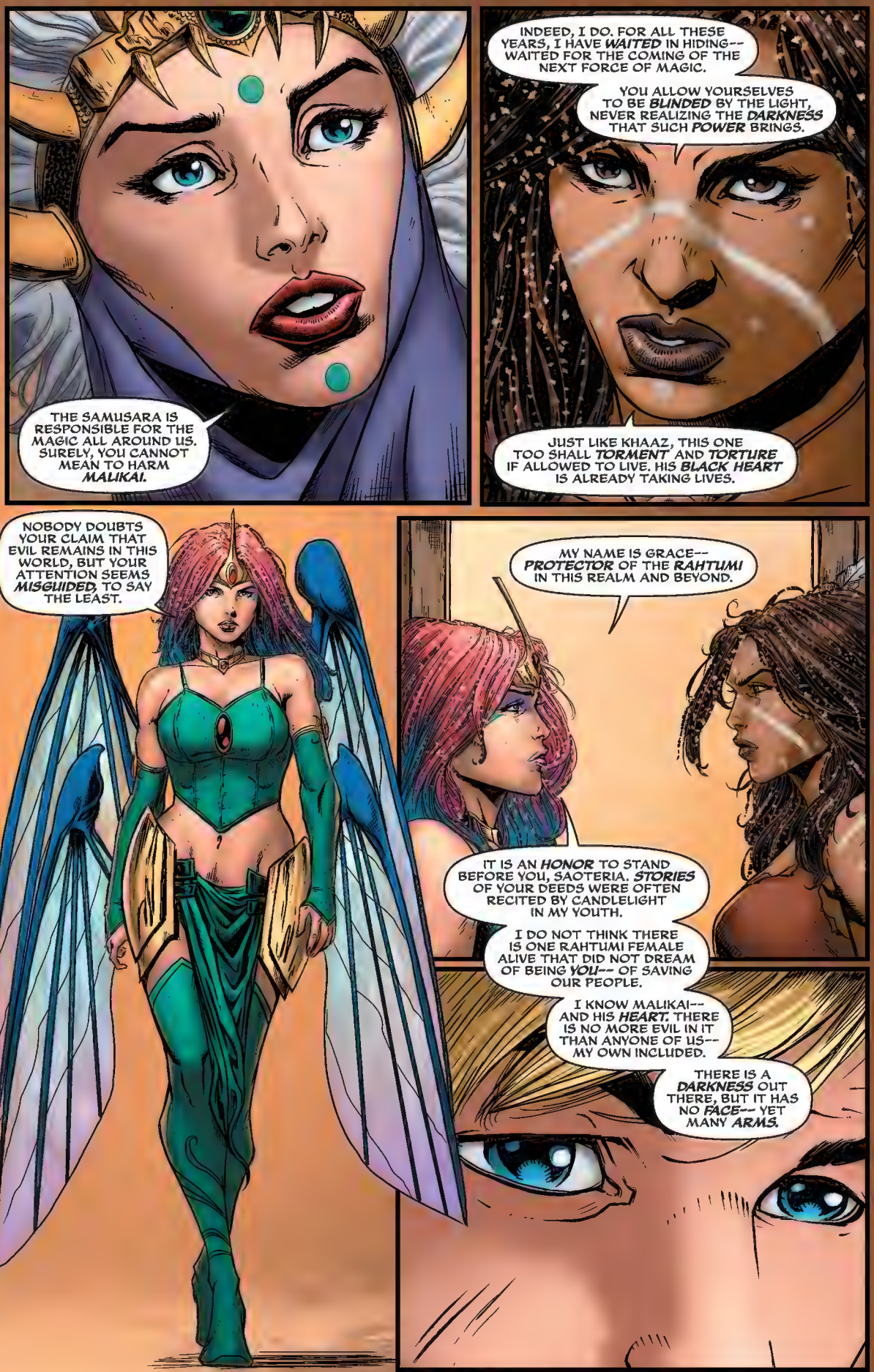

WHAT HAPPENED?
I HIBERNATED AWAY IN SIBERIA, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER. TROUBLE STILL FOUND ME. A GROUP OF WOMEN A BIT LIKE YOU-- WINGS AND WEAPONS. ALL HELL-BENT ON KILLING ME.
KILLING YOU? WHY?
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THEIR LEADER DOESN'T SEE THE SAMUSARA AS BRINGING THE LIGHT BACK. SHE SEES ME AS SOME KIND OF HARBINGER OF DOOM.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
NEITHER DOES THIS.
WHAT IS IT? AN INFECTION?
DON'T KNOW. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME.
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN FULLY HONEST WITH ME ABOUT THIS WHOLE SAMUSARA GIG.
SPOON FEEDING ME INFO ON A NEED-TO- KNOW BASIS. AND, I'M TELLING YOU-- I NEED TO KNOW.
BECAUSE WHATEVER THIS IS-- IT'S BAD.
CENTURIES AGO, WHEN THE MAGIC DIED, I WATCHED ALL THOSE AROUND ME SUFFER. IT WAS A PLAGUE FOR THE AGES. BUT THAT CAN'T BE WHAT AILS YOU. THE MAGIC HAS JUST RETURNED.
SOMETHING ELSE HAS RETURNED WITH THE MAGIC AS WELL. SOMETHING DARK. SOMETHING EVIL.
STRANGE CREATURES-- FACELESS BUT WITH DOZENS OF ARMS. THEY DEVOUR ANYTHING IN THEIR PATH. STEALING THE VERY LIFE FROM PEOPLE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

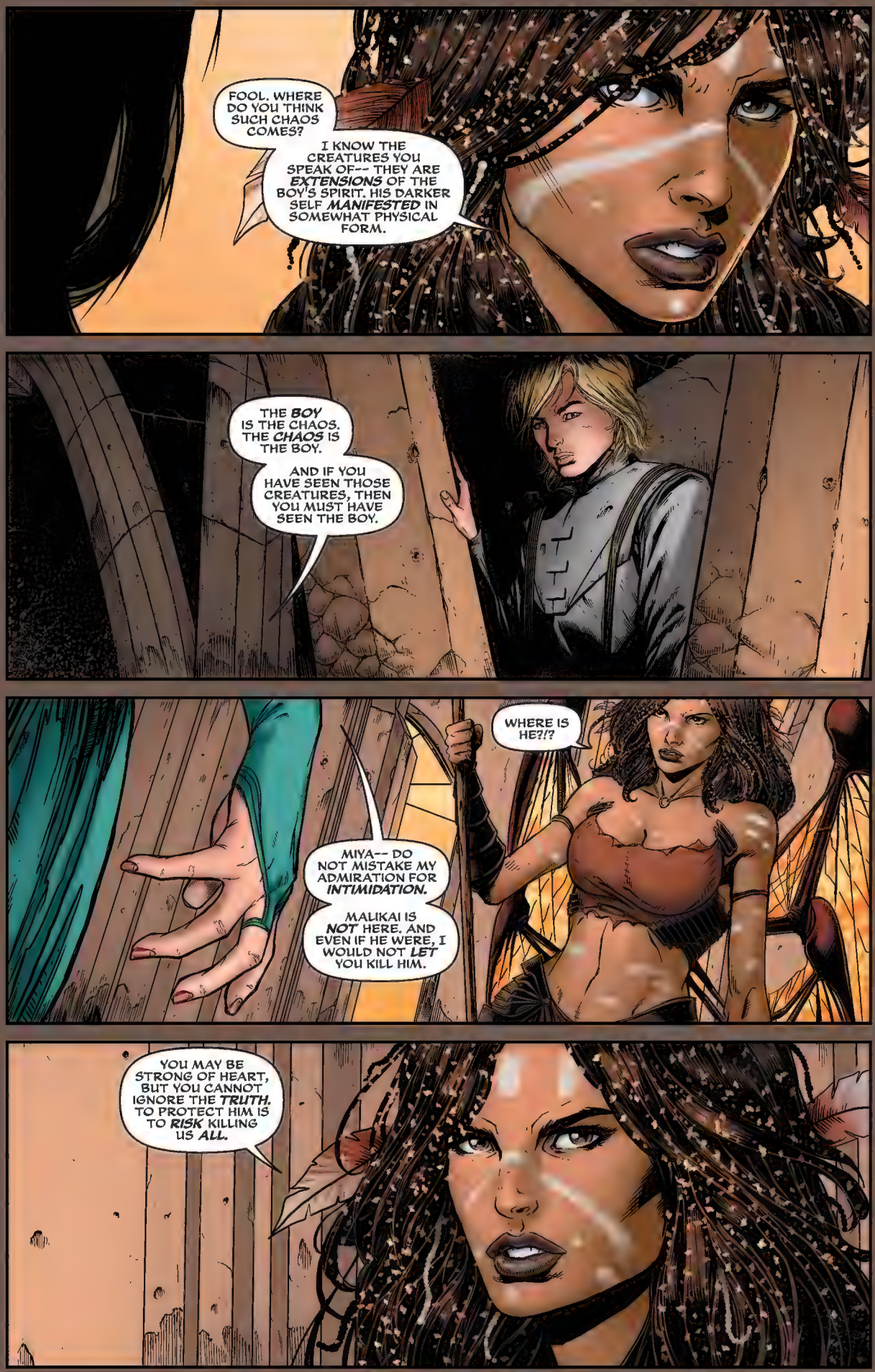

WE'VE LOST A GREAT DEAL OF OUR HISTORY OVER THE YEARS, BUT IF THERE ARE ANY ANSWERS TO BE FOUND, THEY WILL BE IN THESE BOOKS.
MAYBE YOU GUYS SHOULD RECONSIDER YOUR WHOLE AVERSION TO TECHNOLOGY. A SEARCH ENGINE RIGHT ABOUT NOW WOULD DO WONDERS.
WE SEE WHERE YOUR TECHNOLOGY HAS GOTTEN YOUR WORLD. I THINK WE'LL PASS.
LISTEN TO THIS...
"IN THE DAYS BEFORE OUR EXODUS, THE WONDERS OF MAGIC WERE ECLIPSED BY A GROWING DARKNESS-- A CHAOS THAT STOLE THE LIGHT."
"THE ARMS REACHED OUT NOT FOR LIFE..."
"...BUT FOR DEATH."
I'VE SEEN THIS ILLUSTRATION BEFORE. I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT REPRESENTED MY PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE-- THEIR OPPRESSION. BUT GIVEN WHAT YOU SAID...
...MAYBE IT REPRESENTS A THREAT.
"A CHAOS THAT STOLE THE LIGHT."

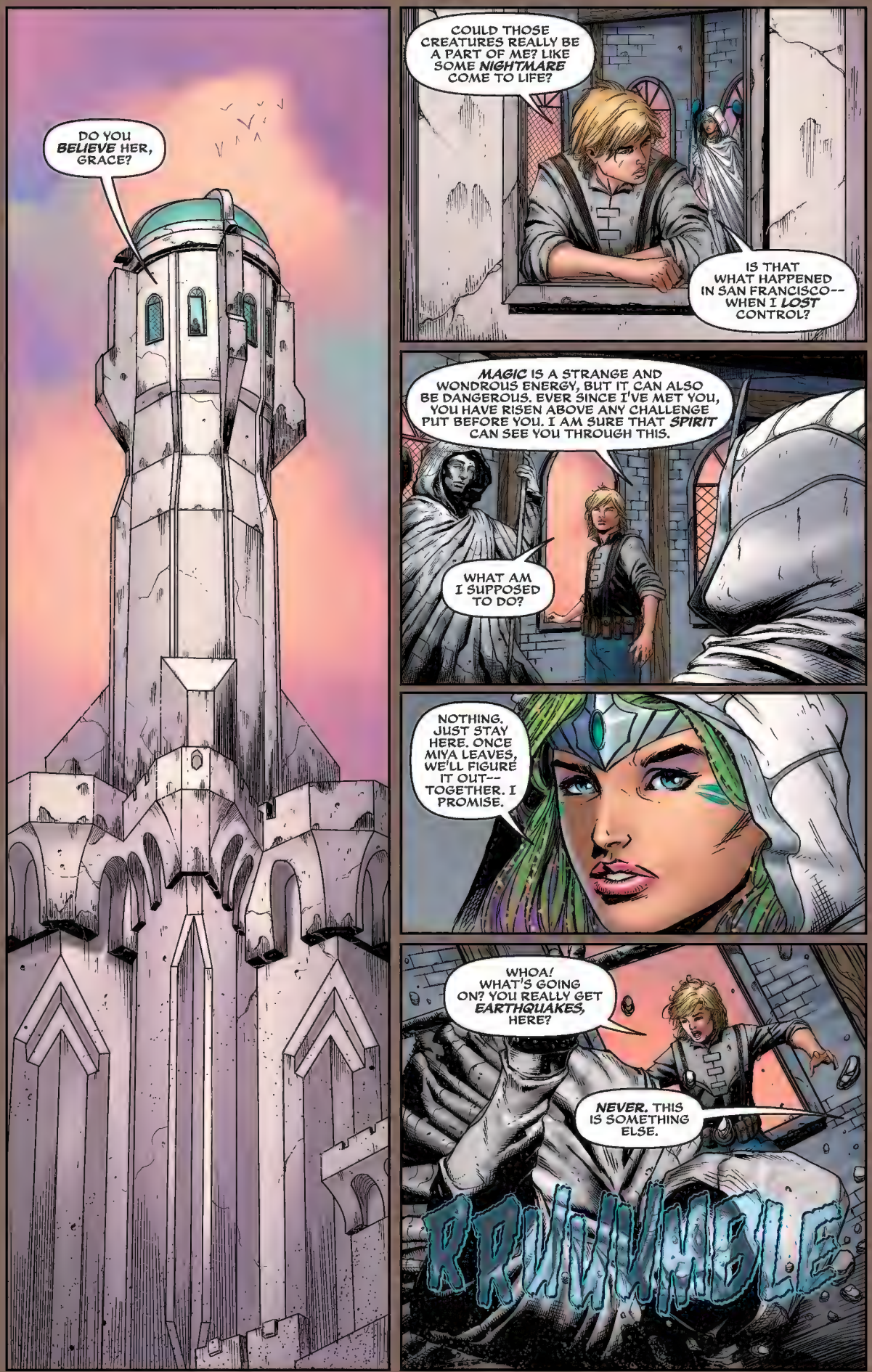
WE CAN FIND THE SCHOLARS. THEY MAY BE ABLE TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.
NO. WAY.
WHAT?
THAT *STATUE.* IT LOOKS LIKE *HER.* THE ONE TRYING TO *KILL* ME.
THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE.* *MIYA* HAS BEEN GONE FOR CENTURIES.
MIYA? THAT'S HER NAME?
YES. SHE'S BECOME SOMETHING OF A *MYTHIC* FIGURE IN OUR HISTORY. WE--
SAO...
SAO...
SAO...
DO YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH. ARE THEY *CHANTING?*
FOR WHAT THOUGH?
TERIA...
TERIA...
TERIA...
I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

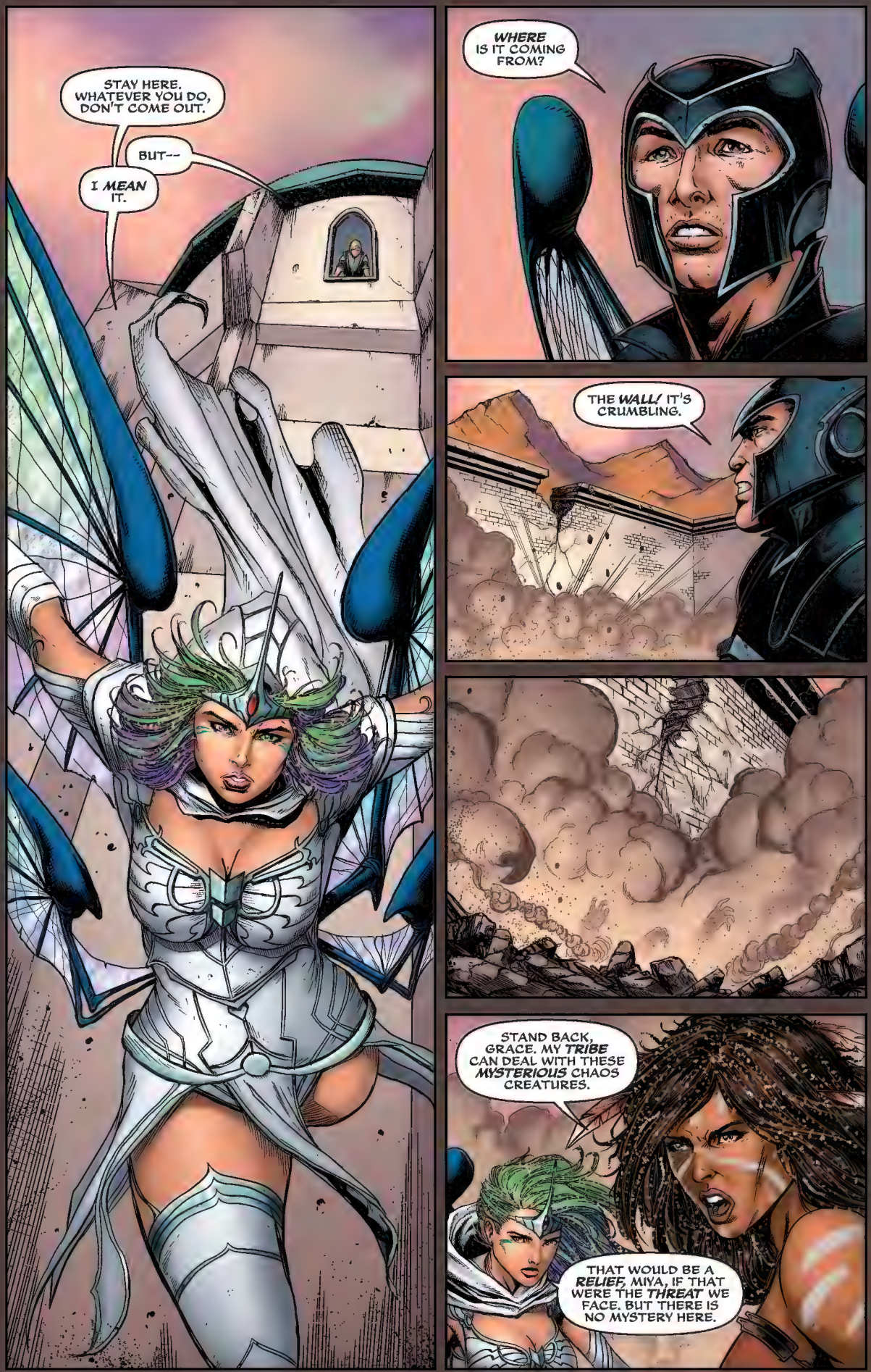
SAOTERIA!
SAOTERIA!
SAOTERIA!
I TOLD YOU.
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
SAOTERIA.
IT MEANS SAVIOR.


IN THE BEGINNING, OUR PEOPLE WERE NOTHING BUT SLAVES. TORTURED AND TORMENTED AT THE HANDS OF A VICIOUS DEITY NAMED KHAAZ. SO THE LEGEND GOES.
BUT THERE WAS A GIRL-- WHO FOUND STRENGTH IN TRAGEDY. SHE UNITED OUR PEOPLE-- RISING UP AGAINST HIM.
WITH THE MAGIC OF ALL OUR PEOPLE IN HER HANDS-- SHE STRUCK DOWN THIS EVIL FORCE-- THUS FREEING THE RAHTUMI FROM AN ETERNITY OF SLAVERY.
GREAT SAOTERIA-- THIS NEW AGE OF MAGIC IS TRULY WONDROUS. TO SEE YOU STANDING BEFORE US-- BRINGING SUCH GLORY TO OUR CITY-- IT IS A BLESSING TO BEHOLD INDEED.
WERE NOT FOR YOUR ACTIONS, NONE OF US MIGHT BE STANDING HERE TODAY. WITH YOUR DEEDS AND YOUR DUTY, YOU SAVED AN ENTIRE PEOPLE.
WE ARE FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT.
YOUR WORDS FALL AT MY FEET, FAYE.
I DID NOT COME FOR ANY SUCH PAGEANTRY.
I CAME TO KILL A SAMUSARA SO THAT OUR WORLD MAY SURVIVE. NOW GIVE ME THE BOY.


THE SAMUSARA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAGIC ALL AROUND US. SURELY, YOU CANNOT MEAN TO HARM MALIKAI.
INDEED, I DO. FOR ALL THESE YEARS, I HAVE WAITED IN HIDING-- WAITED FOR THE COMING OF THE NEXT FORCE OF MAGIC.
YOU ALLOW YOURSELVES TO BE BLINDED BY THE LIGHT, NEVER REALIZING THE DARKNESS THAT SUCH POWER BRINGS.
JUST LIKE KHAAZ, THIS ONE TOO SHALL TORMENT AND TORTURE IF ALLOWED TO LIVE. HIS BLACK HEART IS ALREADY TAKING LIVES.
NOBODY DOUBTS YOUR CLAIM THAT EVIL REMAINS IN THIS WORLD, BUT YOUR ATTENTION SEEMS MISGUIDED, TO SAY THE LEAST.
MY NAME IS GRACE-- PROTECTOR OF THE RAHTUMI IN THIS REALM AND BEYOND.
IT IS AN HONOR TO STAND BEFORE YOU, SAOTERIA. STORIES OF YOUR DEEDS WERE OFTEN RECITED BY CANDLELIGHT IN MY YOUTH.
I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ONE RAHTUMI FEMALE ALIVE THAT DID NOT DREAM OF BEING YOU-- OF SAVING OUR PEOPLE.
I KNOW MALIKAI-- AND HIS HEART. THERE IS NO MORE EVIL IN IT THAN ANYONE OF US-- MY OWN INCLUDED.
THERE IS A DARKNESS OUT THERE, BUT IT HAS NO FACE-- YET MANY ARMS.


FOOL. WHERE DO YOU THINK SUCH CHAOS COMES?
I KNOW THE CREATURES YOU SPEAK OF-- THEY ARE *EXTENSIONS* OF THE BOY'S SPIRIT. HIS DARKER SELF *MANIFESTED* IN SOMEWHAT PHYSICAL FORM.
THE *BOY* IS THE CHAOS. THE *CHAOS* IS THE BOY.
AND IF YOU HAVE SEEN THOSE CREATURES, THEN YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THE BOY.
WHERE IS HE?!?
MIYA-- DO NOT MISTAKE MY ADMIRATION FOR *INTIMIDATION.*
MALIKAI IS *NOT* HERE. AND EVEN IF HE WERE, I WOULD NOT *LET* YOU KILL HIM.
YOU MAY BE STRONG OF HEART, BUT YOU CANNOT IGNORE THE *TRUTH.* TO PROTECT HIM IS TO *RISK* KILLING US *ALL.*


DO YOU BELIEVE HER, GRACE?
COULD THOSE CREATURES REALLY BE A PART OF ME? LIKE SOME NIGHTMARE COME TO LIFE?
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN SAN FRANCISCO-- WHEN I LOST CONTROL?
MAGIC IS A STRANGE AND WONDROUS ENERGY, BUT IT CAN ALSO BE DANGEROUS. EVER SINCE I'VE MET YOU, YOU HAVE RISEN ABOVE ANY CHALLENGE PUT BEFORE YOU. I AM SURE THAT SPIRIT CAN SEE YOU THROUGH THIS.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
NOTHING. JUST STAY HERE. ONCE MIYA LEAVES, WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT-- TOGETHER. I PROMISE.
WHOA! WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU REALLY GET EARTHQUAKES, HERE?
NEVER. THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE.
RAWHIDE


STAY HERE. WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T COME OUT.
BUT--
I MEAN IT.
WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
THE WALL! IT'S CRUMBLING.
STAND BACK, GRACE. MY TRIBE CAN DEAL WITH THESE MYSTERIOUS CHAOS CREATURES.
THAT WOULD BE A RELIEF, MIYA, IF THAT WERE THE THREAT WE FACE. BUT THERE IS NO MYSTERY HERE.

"IT'S *ONYX* AND HER *SETHORU*."

A WORD TO THE WISE. *SURRENDER* IS NOT AN OPTION.

FOR WE DIDN'T COME FOR YOUR *KINGDOM*. OR YOUR *CROWN*.

WE CAME FOR YOUR *HEADS*.

I KNEW *FREEDOM* WAS NEVER YOUR GOAL, ONYX. YOU LED YOUR SETHORU AWAY WITH *PROMISES* OF NEW BEGINNINGS, BUT ALL YOU BRING THEM IS *WAR*.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET OUR ULTIMATE MISSION, BUT WE SHALL NOT *ABANDON* OUR PEOPLE.

FOR THE RAHTUM!

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE DRAGONS.

I THOUGHT BRINGING MAGIC BACK TO THE WORLD WOULD MAKE THINGS BETTER.
BUT IT ONLY SEEMS TO BRING WAR AND DEATH.
I DID THIS. I GAVE THEM THE POWER.
POWER TO FIGHT OVER. POWER TO KILL.
I DON'T CARE IF MIYA WANTS MY HEAD ON A PIKE.

I CAN'T STAY BY AND DO NOTHING.
RAAWRR!
THERE! THE BOY!
KILL HIM!
MIYA?!? NO! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, GRACE?

GOT YOUR HANDS FULL?
I CAN HANDLE YOU, ONYX.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT HERE...
...LET ME SHOW YOU.
BEHOLD THE TRUE POWER--

—OF THE SETHORU SHADOW MAGIC!
TO BE CONTINUED IN...
THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES!
RICHARD TOMASI'S
SOULFIRE
#7
VOL. 3

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#7
OF 8
COVER A
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#7
OF 8
COVER B
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

VOLUME THREE
ISSUE SEVEN

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OURS IS A TIMELESS STRUGGLE IT SEEMS.
AGES AGO THE SETHORU AND THE RAHTUMI WERE TWO WORLDS LIVING APART-- ALWAYS AT ODDS IN A WORLD RICH IN MAGIC.
BUT WHEN THE LIGHT DIED, TAKING THE MAGIC WITH IT, WE CAME TOGETHER-- UNITED BY A SINGLE PURPOSE.
SURVIVAL.
CENTURIES LATER, THE RETURN OF MAGIC HAS BROUGHT NEW CONFLICT.
AS THE LEADER OF THE RAHTUMI, FAYE HAS TRIED TO KEEP THE PEACE.

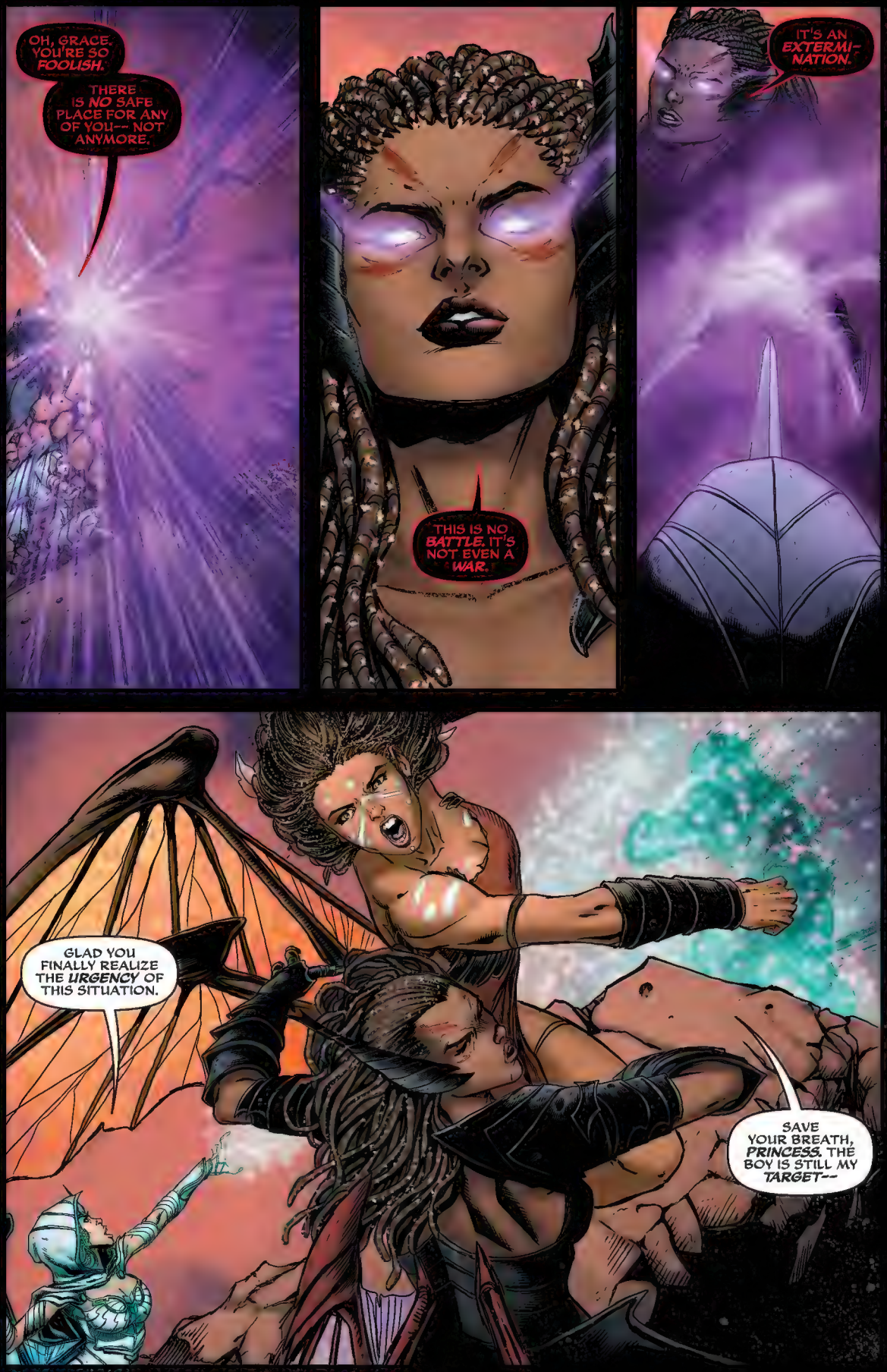
WHILE THE LEADER OF THE SETHORU HAS ANOTHER FOCUS-- WAR.
SO MUCH FOR YOUR CLAIM TO BUILD A NEW KINGDOM TO CALL YOUR OWN, ONYX.
I STAND BY MY CLAIM, GRACE.
AND I WILL USE THE RUBBLE OF YOUR KINGDOM AND THE ASHES OF YOUR BODIES FOR MY BRICK AND MORTAR.

I AM NO LONGER MERELY AN ASSASSIN. I HAVE EVOLVED.
NOW, I AM THE QUEEN OF THE SETHOKU, A SORCERESS OF THE SHADOW MAGIC.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, GRACE? I THOUGHT YOU HELD SOME SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH DRAGONS.
IT SEEMS MY BEAST IS IMMUNE TO YOUR CHARM.
NNNN...

MIYA, CALL OFF YOUR ENTOURAGE. ANANTIA IS UNDER ATTACK. I KNOW YOU'RE GUNNING FOR ME. YOU THINK I'M SOME HARBINGER OF DOOM.
I DO NOT THINK IT. I KNOW IT.
BUT I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER KNOW.
FINE. BUT CAN'T YOU HELP SAVE THE KINGDOM FROM THESE MONSTERS...
...THEN LECTURE ME ABOUT MY DARK SIDE?
THIS FIGHT IS ONLY FOR A KINGDOM. I AM FIGHTING FOR AN ENTIRE WORLD.
BESIDES-- YOU ARE THE ONLY TRUE MONSTER HERE, BOY.

DAMMIT!
YOU SAY I'M EVIL. YOU SAY I'M THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS.
IF THAT IS TRUE, I'D KILL YOU RIGHT NOW.
BUT I DO.
YOU MAY NOT CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE, MIYA.

WHERE'D THIS BEHEMOTH COME FROM? IT'S LIKE FIVE TIMES THE SIZE OF THE OTHER DRAGONS!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S NOT A REAL DRAGON. IT'S PURE ENERGY, CREATED BY FORBIDDEN SETHORU SHADOW MAGIC.
A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF THAT POWER. STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY EVERYTHING.
HURRY! GET TO SAFETY!


OH, GRACE. YOU'RE SO FOOLISH.
THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE FOR ANY OF YOU-- NOT ANYMORE.
THIS IS NO BATTLE. IT'S NOT EVEN A WAR.
IT'S AN EXTERMI-NATION.
GLAD YOU FINALLY REALIZE THE URGENCY OF THIS SITUATION.
SAVE YOUR BREATH, PRINCESS. THE BOY IS STILL MY TARGET--

But perhaps that creature will do my job for me.
Being small, I learned a thing or two about standing up to bullies. In my book, bigger always means slower.
UNNGHHH!

UGHHH... TOO STRONG... CAN'T MOVE.
CAN'T LET IT END. NOT LIKE THIS.
ALMOST DYING IS BECOMING MY THING. I JUST NEED TO DIG DEEPER. REACH INTO MY SOUL.
AND RELEASE THE HEART OF MY--

RAAWWRRR
--DARKNESS?
M-MALIKAI? WHAT DID YOU DO?
ARE YOU STILL BLINDED BY YOUR ALLEGIANCE? CAN YOU NOT SEE THE EVIL WITHIN THIS BOY?
HE'LL DESTROY US ALL!

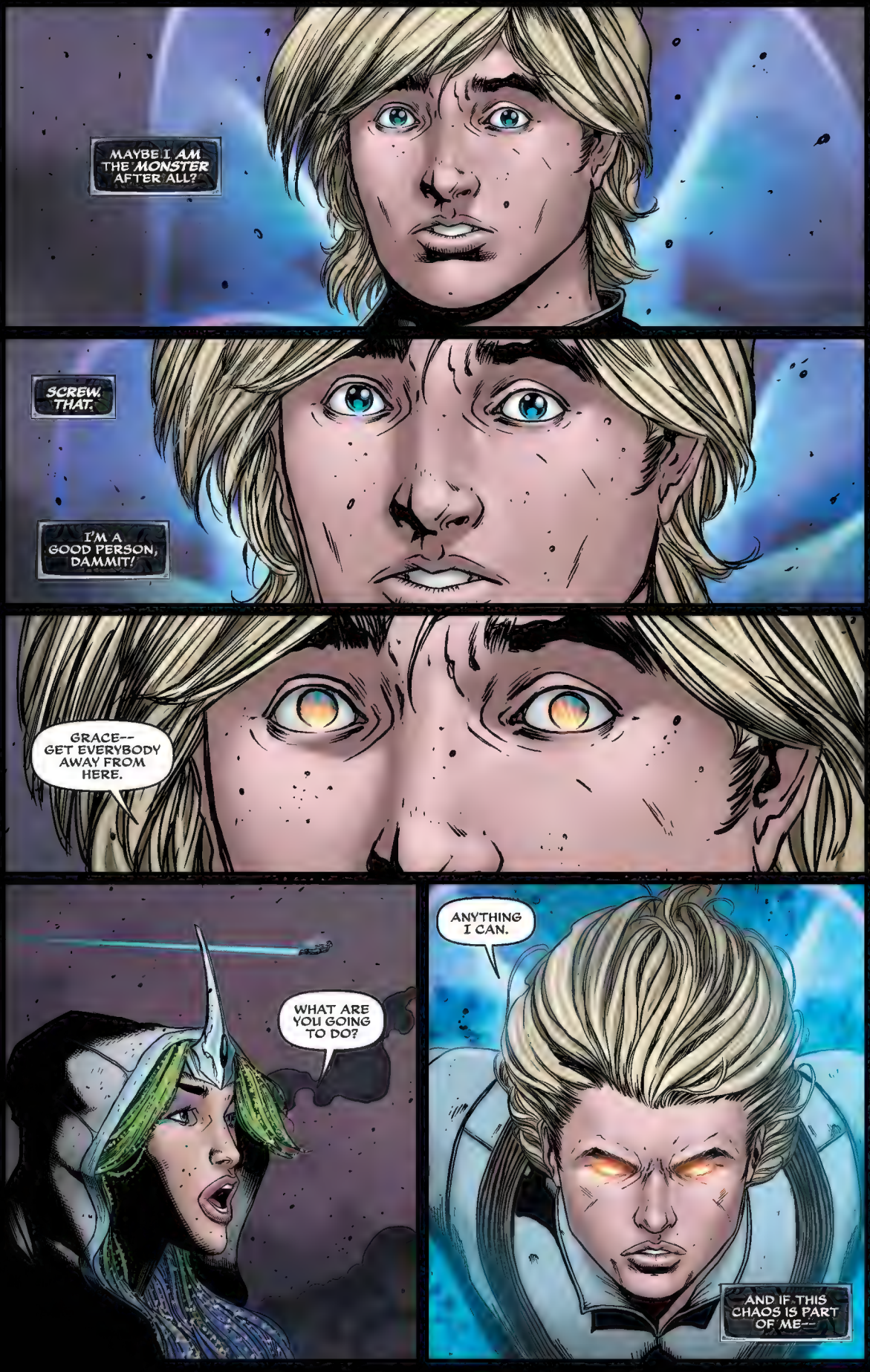
THEY CAN'T BE FROM ME. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
RISE, MY BEAST. RISE!
FINALLY, YOU SEE THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF.
YOU MAY HAVE BROUGHT THE LIGHT OF MAGIC BACK TO THIS WORLD.
BUT YOU SHALL ALSO BRING ABOUT ITS DESTRUCTION. THAT IS THE ROLE YOU PLAY.
BUT THEY SAVED ME. SAVED THE KINGDOM.
DID THEY?
LOOK AGAIN. THEY FIGHT FOR NOBODY.

THEY ARE PURE CHAOS.
WHAT DO WE DO?
STOP THEM, MALIKA!
I-I DON'T KNOW HOW!
THIS IS IT! OUR FINAL BATTLE AGAINST THE GREAT DARKNESS THAT HAUNTS OUR VERY SOULS.
BE STRONG, MY CHILDREN.

SEE, MIYA-- THESE CREATURES MAY BE PART OF MALIKAI, BUT THEY ARE NOT HIM.
HE FIGHTS IT AS ONE MIGHT FIGHT A SICKNESS. INSTEAD OF KILLING HIM, HELP US CURE HIM.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO REFUSES TO SEE, GRACE. IT FEEDS OFF US... OUR SPIRITS AND OUR POWER.
GROWING STRONGER AND STRONGER. BLOTTING OUT THE SUN.
THE BOY IS THE PLAGUE.
MALIKAI? ARE YOU DOING THIS?
I'M NOT DOING ANY-THING. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.

IT'S NOT ME.

THE SAMUSARA-- THE BRINGER OF LIGHT.
THAT'S WHAT THEY HAVE CALLED ME ALL THIS TIME, GRACE, KAMEA, REN-- ALL THE MASTERS I'VE MET. IT WAS THEIR PURPOSE TO WATCH FOR ME-- TO FIND ME.
BUT WHAT IF THEY NEVER KNEW WHAT MIYA KNEW? THAT BEING THE SAMUSARA IS NOT JUST ABOUT BRINGING THE LIGHT.
WHAT IF IT'S ABOUT BRINGING THE DARK AS WELL? THE CHAOS.


MAYBE I AM THE MONSTER AFTER ALL?
SCREW. THAT.
I'M A GOOD PERSON, DAMMIT!
GRACE-- GET EVERYBODY AWAY FROM HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
ANYTHING I CAN.
AND IF THIS CHAOS IS PART OF ME--

--I'LL RIP IT OUT WITH MY OWN HANDS.
HE'S... HE'S GONE.

I NEVER BELIEVED THAT IN *DEATH* EVERYTHING WAS OVER IN A FLASH-- A SNAP OF THE FINGER.
NO, I SAW IT MORE LIKE BLOWING OUT A CANDLE.
AFTER THE *FLAME* GOES OUT, THE *SMOKE* WISPS UP INTO THE AIR, TRAILING OFF. FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY.
EVEN THE END ISN'T THE END. THERE IS STILL ONE THING LEFT.

ATONEMENT.
TO BE CONCLUDED IN...
MALIKAI VS. MALIKAI!
#8
SOULFIRE
VOL. 3

ASPEN
VOL. 3
#8
OF 8
COVER A
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2012

ASPEN
VOL. 3
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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 3 Issue 8

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I HAVE LIVED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. I WATCHED OUR PEOPLE THRIVE IN THE LAST GREAT AGE OF MAGIC.
I WITNESSED THE DYING OF THE LIGHT AND STRUGGLED TO SURVIVE THE DARKEST OF TIMES IN A WORLD WITHOUT MAGIC.
BUT I'VE NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
WE WERE ALREADY COMBATING AN ATTACK FROM ONYX AND HER REBELLIOUS SETHORU ARMY, WHEN THIS CREATURE APPEARED.
A VIOLENT MANIFESTATION OF CHAOS-- A PURE FORCE OF DESTRUCTION. SEEMINGLY BORN FROM THE ENERGY OF MALIKAI HIMSELF--A POLAR OPPOSITE TO THE LIGHT HE BROUGHT TO THIS WORLD.
MALIKAI TRIED TO STOP IT. TRIED TO SAVE US ALL.
BUT THIS DARKNESS DEVOURED HIM.

MY SPIRIT COMES FROM A LONG LINE OF *SAMUSARAS*--

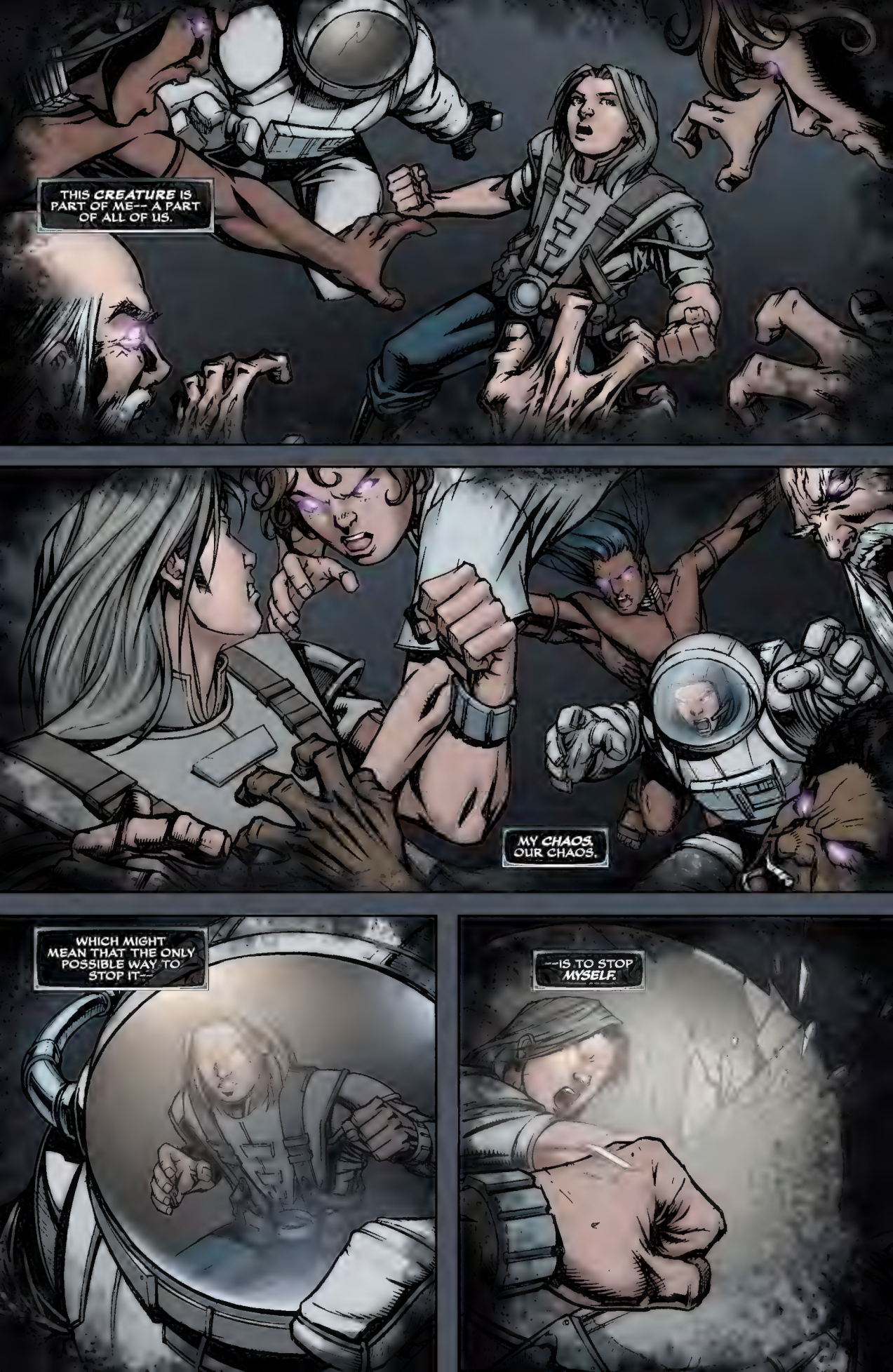
--AT LEAST THAT'S HOW THE STORY GOES.

THROUGHOUT THE AGES, WE LIVED AND STRUGGLED IN OUR *DESTINY* TO BE THE *BRINGER OF LIGHT*. THE *CATALYST* FOR THE RETURN OF *MAGIC*.

IN A STRANGE WAY, THIS IS MY *FAMILY*, BONDED NOT BY BLOOD-- BUT BY SOMETHING DEEPER. THE MAGIC ITSELF.

I DID MY JOB. BROUGHT BACK THE LIGHT, THE DAWNING OF A NEW AGE OF MAGIC. I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END OF IT. BELIEVED MY LIFE COULD BELONG TO ME ONCE AGAIN.

BUT IT TURNS OUT, WE ARE *MORE* THAN THE LIGHT. WE ARE THE *DARK* AS WELL.


THIS CREATURE IS PART OF ME-- A PART OF ALL OF US.
MY CHAOS. OUR CHAOS.
WHICH MIGHT MEAN THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO STOP IT--
--IS TO STOP MYSELF.

NOTHING WE DO SEEMS TO AFFECT THIS CREATURE.
SAVE AS MANY AS YOU CAN!
HERE!
PLEASE!
SO, NOW THAT MALIKAI IS DEAD, YOU WILL HELP US, MIYA?
I WAS NEVER AN ENEMY OF YOURS, GRACE. ONLY AN ENEMY OF ONE YOU HELD DEAR.
WE ARE ALL STILL RAHTUMI. WE STAND TOGETHER.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, FOR OUR ENEMIES ARE MANY.
STAY TRUE TO OUR PURPOSE, MY WARRIORS!
KILL THE RAHTUMI!
ONYX!

YOU DO NOT NEED TO FEAR THIS CREATURE. I WILL KILL YOU LONG BEFORE IT HAS THE CHANCE.
YOU ACT AS THOUGH YOU HAVE THE HIGH GROUND, GRACE.
IT IS THE SETHORU WHO HAVE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE RAHTUMI. THE DOOM THAT COMES TODAY WAS HATCHED BY YOUR EVIL DEEDS-- YOUR TYRANNY AND MALICE.
I DO NOT CARE IF I LIVE OR DIE--
--THIS DAY, I WILL SEE YOUR KINGDOM DESTROYED!
NEVER!

I DID NOT KNOW THESE MEN. BUT LIKE A DREAM, I REMEMBER THEM.
I RECALL THEIR SPIRIT AND THEIR DRIVE. THEIR GOODNESS.
BUT HERE-- ALL THAT REMAINS IS THEIR ANGER AND RAGE. IT IS THE VERY WORST PARTS OF THEM.
THE DARK SHADOW IN OUR SOULS. THE PART WE ALL WISH DIDN'T EXIST.
BUT I'VE COME TO KNOW THE CHAOS I POSSESS. THE DANGER INSIDE OF ME THAT COULD INJURE, KILL, AND DESTROY.
OF ALL OF THEM, NONE EMBRACED THE CHAOS LIKE KHAAZ. IN HIS DAY, HE WAS A VENGEFUL GOD AMONGST THE WORLD. RULING THROUGH FEAR AND DEATH.
AND I'VE GROWN TO FEAR THAT BLACK CORE THAT SECRETLY ENJOYED IT.
I'M NOT LIKE HIM, DAMMIT! I AM MY OWN PERSON. FREE TO TURN AWAY FROM THE CHAOS. FREE TO LIVE MY OWN LIFE.
TO MAKE MY OWN FATE.

OR DIE TRYING IT SEEMS.
UGHH!

THIS AGE OF MAGIC COULD HAVE BEEN A TIME OF WONDER FOR ALL, ONYX.
INSTEAD, YOU USE IT TO WAGE YOUR WAR.
SPOKEN LIKE SOMEONE AFRAID TO FINALLY BE LOSING THEIR POWER OVER OTHERS.
THIS KINGDOM OF YOURS WAS BUILT ON THE BONES OF MY PEOPLE-- MY SETHORU.
YOU ARE DELUSIONAL. THIS KINGDOM WAS FOUNDED BY RAHTUMI AND SETHORU TOGETHER. RULED BY BOTH-- UNTIL YOU KILLED ARLIN.
YOU SEVERED THIS PEACEFUL UNION.
THIS BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS, ONYX.
PERHAPS IT'S TIME THAT YOURS BE SPILLED AS WELL.
G-GRACE...

IMMEASURABLE.
UNBEARABLE.
AHHH!
ARGH!
THE BLINDING PAIN SEARS THROUGH MY SOUL.
AND, I KNOW.
THIS IS THE END.

OF EVERYTHING.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I REALLY AM. IF I'M ALIVE OR ALREADY DEAD.
BUT THE PAIN IS REAL. THE MAGIC IS HERE.
IT MAKES NO SENSE TO FIGHT AROUND THE EDGES.
I NEED TO STOP THIS ENERGY AT THE SOURCE.
THE COLD, DEAD HEART AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL.
MY LITTLE BALL...
...OF HATE.

COME ON! LET'S KEEP THIS GOING.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF MYSELF.
WE ALL HAVE EVIL INSIDE OF US.
BUT WE ALSO HAVE A CHOICE.
TO STAND AGAINST THE DARKNESS.
TO EMBRACE THE LIGHT.

IN THAT FINAL MOMENT, I DO NOT FOCUS ON MY ANGER OR MY RAGE.

INSTEAD, I FOCUS ON THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT LIGHT INTO MY LIFE.

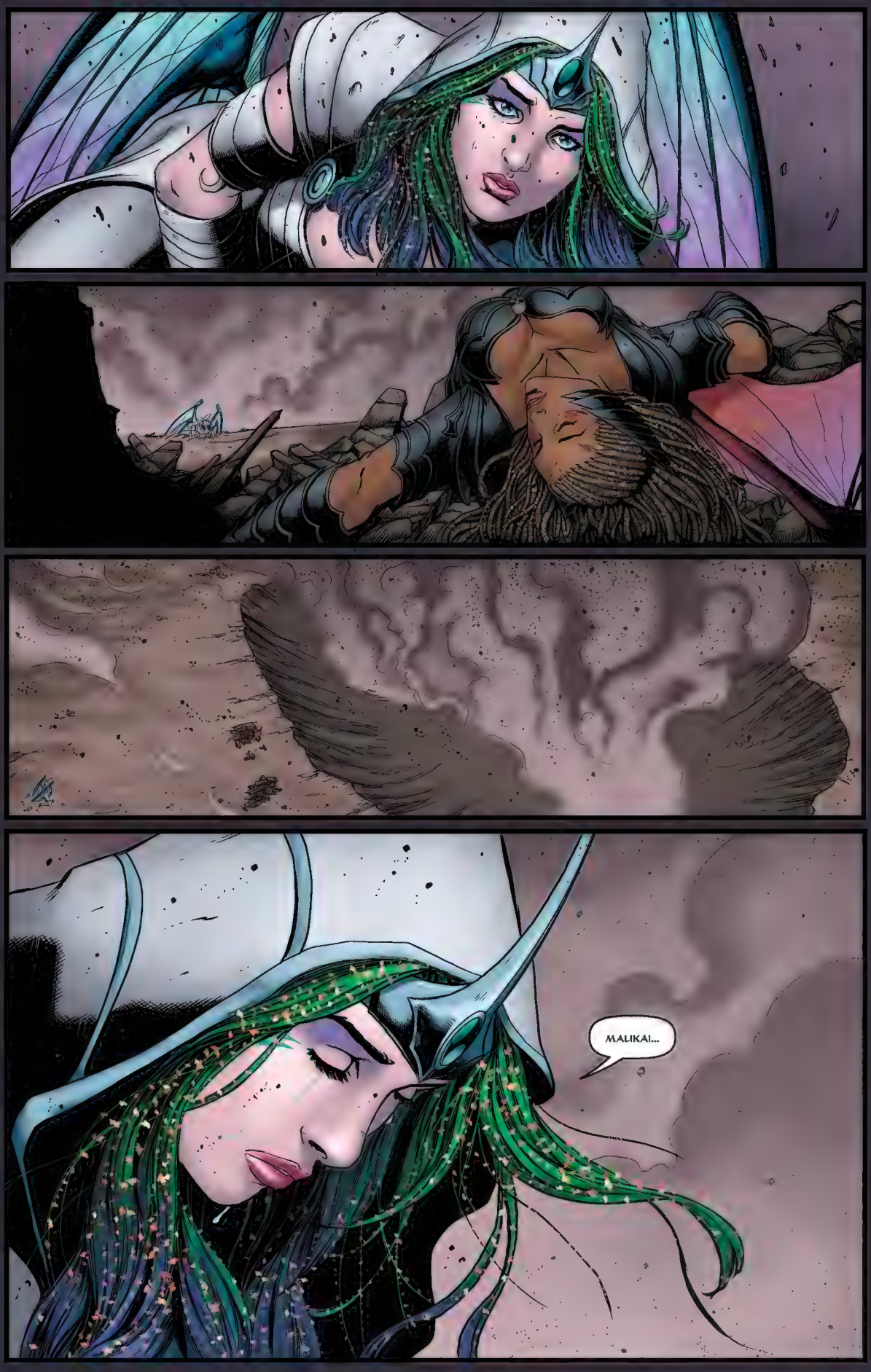
THROUGH THEIR STRENGTH.

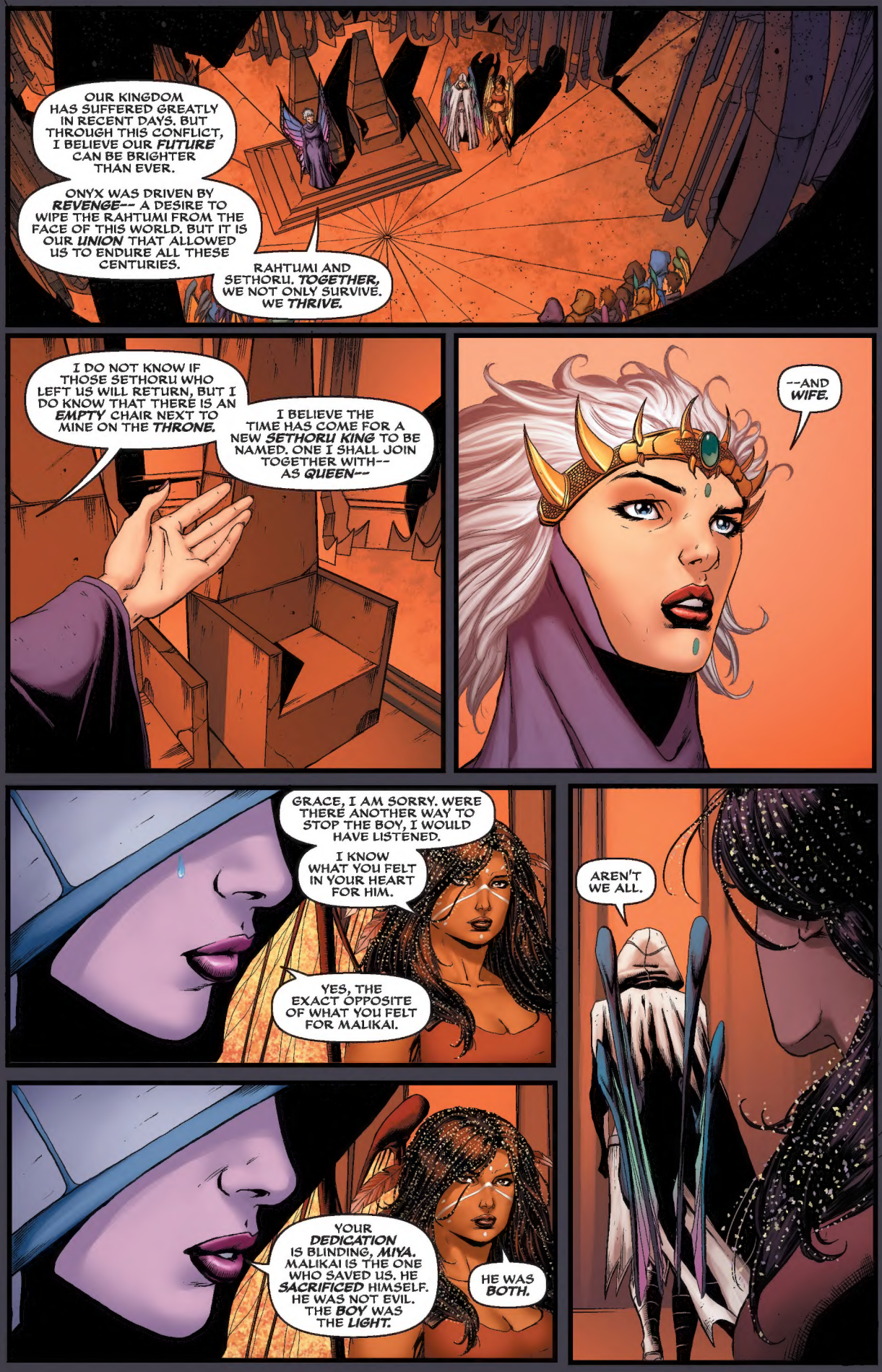
THEIR FRIENDSHIP.

THEIR LOVE.

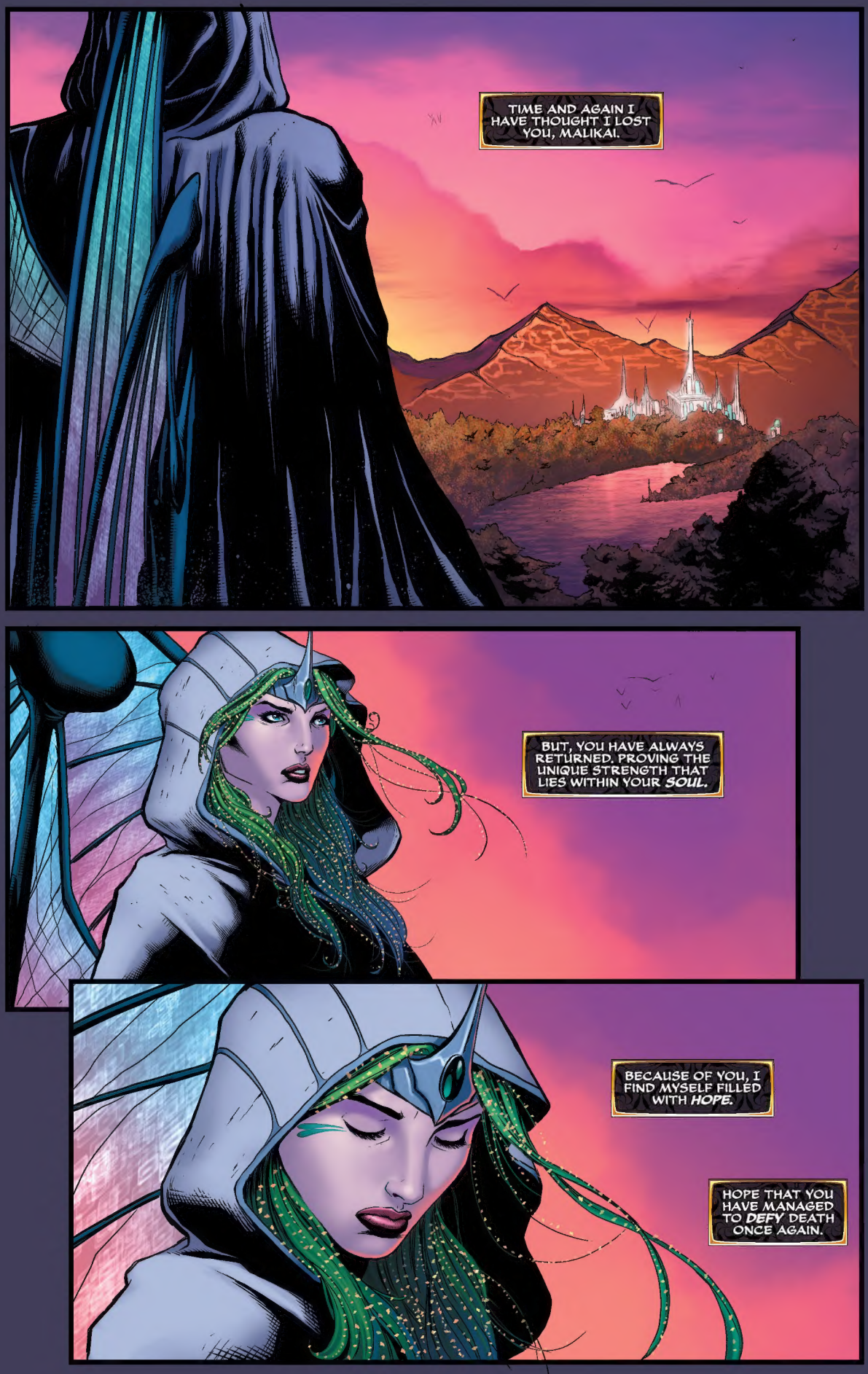
THAT'S THE *REAL MAGIC.*

THAT'S THE *REAL POWER.*


MALIKAI...


OUR KINGDOM HAS SUFFERED GREATLY IN RECENT DAYS. BUT THROUGH THIS CONFLICT, I BELIEVE OUR FUTURE CAN BE BRIGHTER THAN EVER.
ONYX WAS DRIVEN BY REVENGE-- A DESIRE TO WIPE THE RAHTUMI FROM THE FACE OF THIS WORLD. BUT IT IS OUR UNION THAT ALLOWED US TO ENDURE ALL THESE CENTURIES.
RAHTUMI AND SETHORU. TOGETHER, WE NOT ONLY SURVIVE. WE THRIVE.
I DO NOT KNOW IF THOSE SETHORU WHO LEFT US WILL RETURN, BUT I DO KNOW THAT THERE IS AN EMPTY CHAIR NEXT TO MINE ON THE THRONE.
I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME FOR A NEW SETHORU KING TO BE NAMED. ONE I SHALL JOIN TOGETHER WITH-- AS QUEEN--
--AND WIFE.
GRACE, I AM SORRY. WERE THERE ANOTHER WAY TO STOP THE BOY, I WOULD HAVE LISTENED.
I KNOW WHAT YOU FELT IN YOUR HEART FOR HIM.
YES, THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOU FELT FOR MALIKAI.
AREN'T WE ALL.
YOUR DEDICATION IS BLINDING, MIYA. MALIKAI IS THE ONE WHO SAVED US. HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF. HE WAS NOT EVIL. THE BOY WAS THE LIGHT.
HE WAS BOTH.

EPILOGUE.
YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO HOLD ME FOREVER.


TIME AND AGAIN I HAVE THOUGHT I LOST YOU, MALIKAI.
BUT, YOU HAVE ALWAYS RETURNED. PROVING THE UNIQUE STRENGTH THAT LIES WITHIN YOUR SOUL.
BECAUSE OF YOU, I FIND MYSELF FILLED WITH HOPE.
HOPE THAT YOU HAVE MANAGED TO DEFY DEATH ONCE AGAIN.

FOR YOUR SAKE.
AND MINE.
END.